A HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECATUR COUNTY, IOWA

Together With Biographical Sketches of Early Families,

Priests and Mother Parishes

By

REV. EDWARD J. HARKIN, Pastor

1956

"For from the rising of the sun even to the going down, my name is great among the Gentiles, and in every place there is sacrifice, and there is offered to my name a clean oblation: for my name is greatamong the Gentiles, saith the Lord of hosts."

Malachias 1, 11.

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Printed with proper Ecclesiastical permission.
Granted June 8, 1956.

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Leon Journal-Reporter, September 1, 1956.

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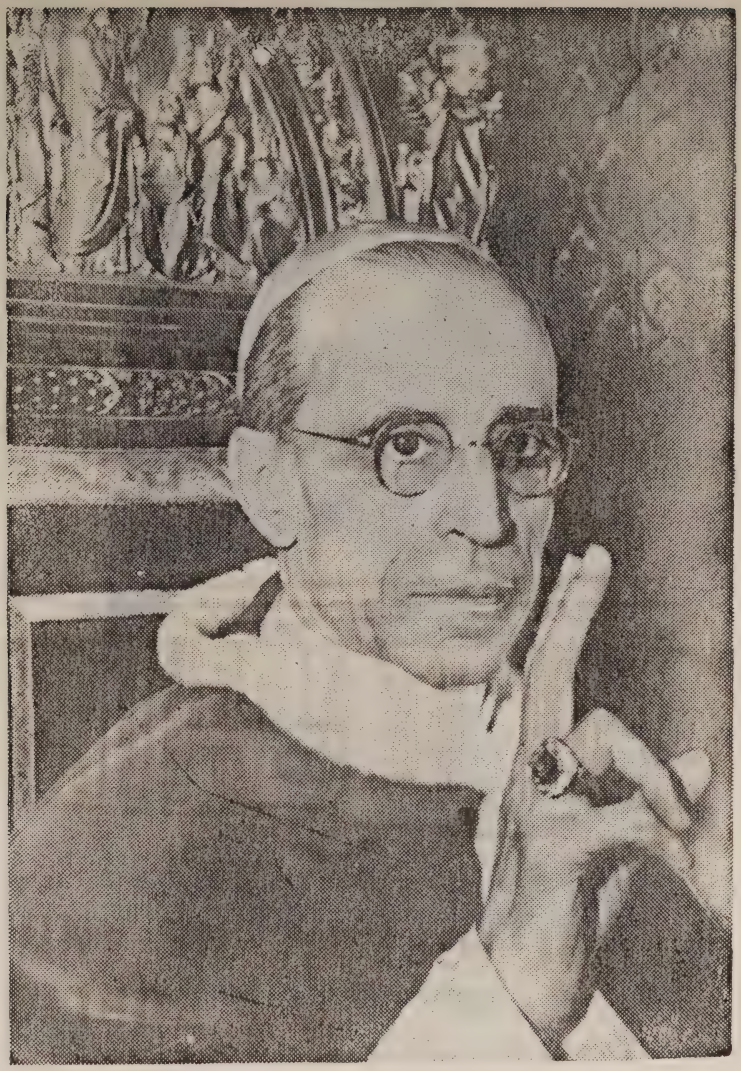

POPE PIUS XII

Bishop Edward C. Daly O. P.

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I

This is an attempt to present from scattered records and bits of information a history of the Catholic Church in Decatur County, Iowa. In particular more attention is given to a small Irish Catholic rural community begun in 1856 known as Ireland, Woodland Township, Decatur County, Iowa. It was ten miles southeast of Leon. It was a coheseive community. That settlement as such is no more. However, there are present 156 Catholics buried there with names on stones in Saint Mary's Cemetery. In 1917 a new church was erected in Leon which is now the center of parish activities. This history will be of interest only to their descendants and those interested in early pioneer settlements.

We at St. Brendan's have unity and fellowship with them and carry on the Faith of the Fathers.

The old settlers, of course, have long since died. Except for three or four families their land has been sold. Their grandchildren have moved to other parts of the county around Leon and Grand River or to some distant city where the great-great-grandchildren live and have families. Hence the blood of the early settlers is mixed and its identity is lost in the never ending flow of human life.

The Catholic families there in the early days were never really great in numbers, perhaps twenty to twenty-five. However, one family did have fourteen living children. The growth during one hundred years has been slow county wide with a few vicissitudes. At present there are some sixty-five practicing Catholic families around Leon in addition to about thirty-five near Grand River.

Consequently with the help of those who have moved into the county and those who have entered the Church during the past years, there has been slow growth like the mustard seed from a small beginning. The Church of this County has had another growth which is worthy of note but is outside of its boundaries!

When we marvel at the Catholic works of urban parishes that did not exist fifty years ago, credit must be given to the people and early sacrificing missionary priests who held the line of fire and planted the seed of Faith at some far away place seventy or a hundred years ago. They labored hard to preserve the practice of Catholic Faith and instruct the people in the performance of their duties. Indeed they were important. We see it now.

Another factor important to remember of the early days is that when the immigrants settled as a community and kept the flock together, they were more apt to remain in the Church and hand the Faith on to their children.

Now the fourth and fifth generation has come. Most of them are still with the Church. It is true some have gone astray. It is also true sometimes they return, and we pray they will return like the prodigal son and the lost sheep who finally came back home. The Catholic Church is the home of all Christians.

At one time the people of the United States lived mostly in rural areas. The small country settlements that once were are interesting to study, not

only the Catholic ones but also the non-Catholic ones and the different national settlements. There once were hundreds and thousands of them. Now for one hundred years or more those little small groups and settlements here and there have been weaving and have been woven like threads crisscrossing the Nation. The United States is the amalgamation of many small communities. The Catholic ones such as Ireland in Southern Iowa have a right to a place in the book of History.

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THE LAND

Chapter II

One hundred years ago it was the dream of many immigrants to buy a tract of land out West upon which to cast their lot for happiness and economic security. They worked on the railroad, in rock quarries, as a policeman, peddlers, laborers and just anything to save a few dollars from the labor of their hands. Some of those people purchased land in Decatur County, Iowa, in 1853 and 1854.

Of the Irish Catholic immigrants who remained faithful to the church and reared their children in the Catholic Faith, Luke Shay at this writing was the first to purchase land in Decatur County. He, December 9, 1853, entered land in Section 9 of Richland Township (North of Grand River) from the United States Land Office. There is no proof that he lived on it. He lived most of his life in Ringgold County. After Ringgold County was organized (1855) the first district court convened May 25, 1857. Luke Shay was naturalized a citizen of the United States at that term of court and that was its first business transacted. (Biographical and Historical record of Ringgold and Decatur Counties, Iowa, from The Lewis Publishing Company, 113 Adams Street, Chicago, Ill., Page 413.)

The next to enter land from the United States Government were two brothers, Edward Conwell and Stephen Conwell, who together purchased 160 acres at $1.25 per acre, in the north part of Richland Township (north of Grand River where Luke Conwell lives) in Section 4. The date was June 10, 1854.

The next land entries and purchases were in Woodland Township, ten miles southeast of Leon, which became a rural farming community known as Ireland. There was never a town at Ireland, only a church and cemetery. The town of Woodland was three and one-half miles northeast while Bracewell was a store, a mill and a couple of houses about three and one-half miles southeast of Ireland.

William Grogan on August 26, 1854, contracted with the State of Iowa to purchase through Decatur County land in Section 19 of Woodland Township.

Patrick Grogan contracted to purchase from Decatur County 80 acres in Section 19, Woodland Township, August 26, 1854.

John Barrett September 4, 1854, entered land in Section 17, Woodland Township, from the United States Government.

Previous to September 4, 1854, John Barrett also had contracted to buy 80 acres in Section 16, Woodland Township, August 26, 1854. He later assigned this same contract to his brothers, Richard Barrett and wife, Bridget, and Ricard Barrett and wife, Julia, jointly. They made their final payment April 12, 1864. The Richard and Ricard Barrett families sold their land in 1866-67 and returned to Indiana.

Michael Griffin purchased land in Section 31 of Woodland Township, October 13, 1857, from William H. Blakesley and Sarah Blakesley, Book 47, Page 170.

Cornelius Hannon bought land in Section 24 of Eden Township from James W. Gammon September 23, 1858.

On November 6, 1858, Dennis Mullin and Patrick Mullin, two brothers, and a brother-in-law, Maurice Daughton, acquired title jointly to land in Section 19, Woodland Township, from Mr. Isam T. W. Kilgore.

According to the Iowa Census, 1860, Bartholomew Houlihan (Halhan) related that he owned $100.00 worth of land. At the Leon Abstract Office however, he (Bartholomew Wholigan) is shown as having recorded a deed to 40 acres in Section 29 dated June 8, 1861. It could be presumed that he purchased it from J. D. Wasson even before 1860 but failed to have the transaction recorded until a late date. This property later passed to Mrs. Dennis Mullin who was the daughter of the above Bartholomew Houlihan.

Although the Wallaces were non-baptized Catholics in 1853, some of them were baptized later into the Catholic Church. John W. Wallace purchased land December 13, 1853, from his father, Peter B. Wallace, Sr., in Section 29, Woodland Township, who had previously purchased it from the United States Government November 4, 1853.

Including John W. Wallace, twelve Catholic Irish immigrants entered or purchased land in Woodland Township during the 1850's. Thomas Owens, who came to Decatur County with the Barretts in 1856 or 1857, purchased land in Woodland Township in the '60's. Following the Civil War more came, such as Thomas Dillon, James Dillon, Francis McGovern, Patrick Flynn, Joseph Peters, Dennis Mahoney, Cornilius Hannon, Patrick Mahoney, Thomas Grogan, and others such as Sylvester Kritz, Daniel Sullivan and William Ogden who purchased land in or near Woodland Township to cause that part of Decatur County to be called "Ireland," ten miles southeast of Leon. A fine young man by the name of Roger Sullivan purchased property in Leon in 1868 and established a business but died from sunstroke in 1871 while helping in the hay field down in Ireland. In addition to these there were also the young ones contracting marriage and starting a new family, such as Samuel Wallace who married Bridget Daughton in 1861.

The total number of practical Catholic families by 1870 in or near Woodland Township was about twenty-five or thirty at the most with more to come during the late '70's and '80's but many had already begun to move away. After Joseph Peters died in 1879, Mrs. Peters married John Barry in 1880.

The Catholic Church in the name of the Right Reverend Clement Smyth, Bishop of Dubuque, September 22, 1863, acquired title to ten acres in Section

19, Woodland Township, for cemetery and church site for the sum of one dollar from William Grogan, Patrick Grogan, Dennis Mullin, Maurice Daughton and Patrick Mullin and their wives.

For these above dates appreciation is extended to Mrs. Lena Varga and Mr. Lee Elson of the Leon Abstract and Title Company, Leon, Iowa.

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THE PIONEERS

Chapter III

Although they contracted to purchase their land in 1854 they did not come to Iowa until later, some in 1855, others in 1856 and 1858. It is interesting to review the primitive type of life they had to live the first months and years on their unimproved land. Their only mode of transportation was an ox team and a covered wagon. Some walked. There was no house or buildings. The ground was covered with tall native grass, trees and brush. Wild honey, wild apples, berries and plums were plentiful with which to make sweets and relishes. Wild turkeys and other game were in abundance for meat. At first they had only a covered wagon for shelter until a log cabin was constructed. They helped one another, and soon after the passing of several years a log cabin stood on every eighty or forty. The air was clean and independence was enjoyed as never before. Hope of great accomplishments was seen on the horizon one hundred years ago.

The first Irish Catholic settlers in Decatur County who identified themselves with the Catholic Church were Edward Conwell and his brother, Stephen Conwell, who settled on their land north of Grand River not later than the Spring of 1855. They were both bachelors, Edward was 24 and Stephen 26. During the Autumn of 1855 they harvested 50 bushels of corn from the 10 acres they had improved. (See Iowa Census, Decatur County, Richland Township, taken before June 1, 1856, Vol. 42, Page 98.)

The first Irish Catholic settlers in Woodland Township it would seem according to this 1856 Iowa Census were the six members of the John Barrett family and a young man unmarried by the name of Patrick Grogan, age 25, who lived with the Barrett family. This Census of 1856, taken between January 1 to June 1, lists only this one Catholic family. There were other families but not Catholic. The Wallace family is listed in this Census as having come to Decatur County in 1852. Several members of the John W. Wallace family were converted to the Catholic Church in later years. John Wallace himself, and wife, Mary E. Monson Wallace, were among them.

The six members of the Barrett family were John Barrett, age 30, and wife, Ellen Barrett, age 25, and their three children: Henry, age 4; John, age 3; and William, age 1; and the grandfather, John Barrett, age 70. In the 1860 Census, Henry and John, the children, are not listed. Apparently they died in childhood. John Barrett had 10 acres improved and 110 unimproved. Patrick Grogan, living in the Barrett house, had 160 acres unimproved, according to this Census. (Vol. 42, Page 270)

The name Barrett was spelled in this Census as "Barriett" which might seem unusual today. However, if you would pronounce it with a thick Irish brogue it would come out "Barriett" for the census taker.

The Daughton name in many early records is spelled: Dartin and Dalton. Pronounce Daughton with a thick Irish brogue and it would come out something like Dartin.

In August of 1860 there was completed another Iowa Census in which eleven Catholic families are listed in Woodland Township including the John W. Wallace family. The total number of souls was 62.

They were:

1. John Barrett, wife Ellen, and three children.
2. Richard (Ricard) Barrett, wife Julia, and four children.
3. Thomas Owens, wife Ellen, and three children.
4. Maurice Daughton, wife Ellen, and seven children.
5. Dennis Mullin, wife Margaret, and three children.
6. Patrick Grogan, wife Frances, and one child.
7. William Grogan, wife Bridget, and seven children.
8. Bartholomew Houlihan, wife Mary.
9. John W. Wallace, wife Mary E., and eight children.
10. Michael Griffin, wife Margaret, and five children.
11. John Barrett, Sr.

John Barrett, Sr.

John Barrett, Sr., born in County Cork about 1769, see his stone in cemetery, and died in Decatur County, Iowa, December 30, 1869, 100 years old and buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township, Decatur County. He came to Iowa in 1856. His children were John Barrett, Ellen Barret Owens, Nancy Barrett Reardon, Ricard Barrett and Richard Barrett.

John Barrett, Jr.

John Barrett, Jr., and Ellen Barrett

John Barrett, born County Cork, Ireland, about 1824 (see stone at cemetery, 1820), died February 5, 1903, buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married at St. Paul, Indiana, 1850, to Miss Ellen Sullivan, who also was born in County Cork, December 8, 1830, died March 19, 1902, buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

They came to Decatur County in the Spring of 1856 and had ten children. Five died in childhood. He entered land in Decatur County, Woodland Township, Section 16, August 26, 1854, and also in Section 17, September 4, 1854.

Children:

1. Henry Barrett, born 1851 Indiana, died in Iowa before 1860.
2. John Barrett, born 1852 Indiana, died in Iowa before 1860.

3. William Barrett, born St. Paul, Indiana, December 8, 1854, was married at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Woodland Township, southeast of Leon, to Catherine Grogan (relative of William and Patrick Grogan, and she had worked in Leon) September 27, 1880, by Father E. Hayes. They moved to Tobias, Nebraska, and both are buried near Friend, Nebraska. Five children. He brought first Priest to Milligan, Nebraska, and introduced him to people.

4. Richard (Ricard) J. Barrett, born in Decatur County July 4, 1857, married Ellen Mahoney. He died in 1936. Both are buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Five children. Four lived: Mary Masterson, Helen Barry, William D. Barrett, Grace Barrett. (John) Edward Barrett, born June 24, 1890, died August 14, 1902.

On Sunday, October 4, 1885, in the Catholic Church in Woodland Township, Decatur County, Iowa, Richard J. Barrett and Ellen Mahoney were united in marriage by Father William M. Williams. (Leon Court House, Book 3, page 348, No. 1514)

5. Mary Barrett, born in Decatur County, Iowa, March 23, 1859, married Ed Macy. She died in 1938 and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Woodland Township. One child, Fay Albert Macy, of Osceola, Iowa. She was stepmother to Ed Macy's children by his first wife who had died. They were non-Catholics.

6. Margaret Barrett, born in Decatur County, Iowa, March, 1861, married Joseph Willard Mullin August 3, 1885. She was confirmed by Rt. Rev. Henry Cosgrove, D. D., Bishop of Davenport, in Catholic Church, St. Patrick's, Woodland Township, June 5, 1885. Eight children. Both are buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. She is the mother of Mrs. William (Hazel) Buckingham.

7. Nancy (Nan) Barrett, born Decatur County, Iowa, May 10, 1863. Never married. She was Father J. C. Maher's housekeeper for many years in Leon and in Des Moines. She died February 8, 1948, at the home of her niece, Mrs. Buckingham. Buried at the Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

John Barrett

Obituary Leon Reporter Thursday, February 12, 1903, page 6

"Obituary: John Barrett, one of the pioneers of Decatur County, died at his home in Woodland Township on Thursday morning, February 5, 1903, after an illness of several months at the advanced age of 79 years.

"The deceased was born in County Cork, Ireland, in the year 1824 and emigrated to America in 1848, landing at New Orleans during the terrible epidemic of cholera in that city but passed it without taking the disease. He went from New Orleans to Ohio, settling near Cincinnati, and lived for a few years in that state and in Indiana at St. Paul, Indiana. He was married to Miss Ellen Sullivan at St. Paul, Indiana, in 1849, and their married life extended over a period of more than fifty years, being broken by the death of Mrs. Barrett last March. To their union was born ten children, five having passed to the great beyond and five living present during his illness, William Barrett of Tobias, Nebraska; R. J. Barrett of High Point, Mrs. Mary Macy of High Point, Mrs. Margaret Mullin of Burrell and Miss Nancy Barrett, who lives at the old Barrett home.

"Uncle John came to this country in 1854 (? The census of 1856 states that he had been in the State of Iowa "0" years), and located in Woodland Township where he entered government land which he continued to occupy until his death. He was a typical Irishman, rugged and had always enjoyed exceptional good health. After the death of his wife last March however he commenced to fail and frequently expressed the wish that he might be called. He was a man highly respected by all who knew him and his death causes sorrow to a large circle of friends. The funeral services were held from the home on Saturday morning, February 7, 1903, conducted by Rev. John A. Condon of Maloy, interment being at the Catholic Grave Yard in Woodland Township."

The new church building was not finished, having been begun in October, 1902, hence the funeral had to be at home.

It is said that in early days John Barrett was the only one who had a Catholic newspaper coming to his home. It was the monthly edition of "The Boston Pilot."

It is related that Mr. John Barrett served Mass for the priest up until he was an old man.

Ed Owens says: "We lived about a quarter of a mile east of the church. The men took turns going ten miles to Leon to meet the priest when he arrived at Leon the day before. The priest would stay that night with one of the families. Many times he would stay with the Barretts. They lived a mile or more north-northeast of us. I can remember seeing the priest walking across the fields and pasture to the church from the Barretts up north of our place. The priest was a tall man who stretched out when he walked fast. After him came Mr. and Mrs. Barrett and their children. They would come onto the road in front of our place, then my mother would gather up us kids and we would follow the Barretts up the road to the church. That was during the late '70's or in the '80's.

"Sometime the priest wouldn't arrive on the train and of course the people would not know it until they gathered at the church the next morning. Mr. John Barrett would lead them in the Rosary and the Litany. The Protestants over at Woodland would say: 'Jack Barrett read the Mass for the Catholics last Sunday.'

"Mary Barrett (Mrs. Ed Macy) was a school teacher in the very early days and taught Catechism at the Church."

OBITUARY

Leon Newspaper 1902

"Ellen Sullivan Barrett was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1822, and died at her home in Woodland Township on Wednesday, March 19, 1902, age 80 years.

'Leaving her native home in October, 1848, she landed at New Orleans November 27, 1848, and went to the state of Indiana where on November 22, 1849, she was married to John Barrett at St. Paul, Indiana. In 1854 (?) they came to Iowa and were among the early settlers of this county entering the home farm in Woodland Township as government land, where she continued to reside until her death. To their union were born ten children, five of whom, with the aged husband, survive her: William Barrett of Tobias, Ne-

braska; Richard Barrett, Mrs. Ed Macy, Mrs. Joe W. Mullin and Miss Nannie Barrett, who reside in this county. All of her children were with her during her last illness.

"The funeral services were held on Friday, March 21, 1902, interment being at the Catholic Cemetery in Woodland Township. Mrs. Barrett was a noble woman and we trust has gone to her reward in the unknown world. Many dear friends mourn her departure."

Thomas Owens

Mrs. Thomas Owens

Thomas Owens, born County Meath, Ireland, August 15, 1827, died October 15, 1874, buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township, married Ellen Barrett, who was born County Cork, Ireland, February 11, 1828, died June 8, 1911, buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. They came to Decatur County before April 4, 1857, most likely in the summer of 1856. It has been said that they came with the Barretts but they are not listed in the Census of Spring, 1856. They came from St. Paul, Indiana.

Children:

1. James Owens, died as an infant in Indiana.

2. Patrick Owens, died as infant in Indiana.

3. John (Jack) Owens, born in Decatur County, Iowa, April 4, 1857, baptized at St. Mary's, Ottumwa, by Father John Adam Kreckel September 16, 1860, with ten other children of the Settlement of Woodland Township. He died in September, 1937, near Beaconsfield, Iowa, buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

He married Kathryn Daughton at the Catholic Church, Woodland Township, by Father T. J. Mullen, April 29, 1889. Aunt Katie died in 1954 while residing at Westerville. She has two children: Dennis Owens and Alice Owens McGraw.

4. Josie (Johanna) Owens (twin), born in Decatur County, March 4, 1860. Never married. Died and buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township, in August, 1949.

5. Mary Ann (Moll) Owens (twin), born March 4, 1860, married Jake Beardsley. One son, William Beardsley, at Grand River, Iowa. Later married William Mulchahey of Chicago. She died and is buried in Chicago. Two children: Josephine Mulchahey and Frank Mulchahey.

6. Bridget Owens, born about 1863, married Bob Malone. Died November 8, 1952, Lincoln, Nebraska, and buried in Nebraska. Several children.

7. Margaret Owens, born November 2, 1865, in Decatur County, married Douglas Green, by Father William M. Williams. Mr. Green died and she

married Kerry A. Wilson. He is dead. She lives at 2114 Army Post Road, Des Moines, Iowa. (July 11, 1953) "Father Williams taught me catechism and married me to Mr. Green, in 1886." In August, 1953, a United States army jet plane didn't make it taking off and crashed into her house while she was in the house. The house burned and her parakeet was killed. Margaret suffered shock and is back at her house now.

8. Richard Owens, born February 28, 1867, died December 21, 1918, buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

9. Edward Thomas Owens, born November 6, 1868, in Decatur County. Never married. Living in Leon in December, 1955. Baptized by Father Louis Cornelis. Record at Georgetown.

10. William Owens, born about 1872. Died in Lincoln, Nebraska, about 1922.

11. Elizabeth Owens, born 1874, married Dr. J. Durham. Lives at Mercer, Missouri.

Rickard - Ricard Barrett

Rickard - Ricard Barrett, born in County Cork, Ireland, about 1824, married Julie Sullivan. They are listed in the 1860 Census of Iowa and came to Iowa at least before 1858. He purchased land in Decatur County, Woodland Township, and lived in Woodland Township until about 1867 when they sold out and returned to Indiana. Ricard was a brother to John Barrett, Jr., and Ellen Owens and a Richard Barrett and a Nancy Reardon.

Children:

1. Johanna Barrett, born in Indiana, 1852.

2. Mary A. Barrett, born in Indiana, 1854.

3. John Barrett, born in Iowa, May 10, 1857.

4. Ellen Barrett, born in Iowa, September 3, 1859.

5. Rickard-Ricard Barrett, born in Iowa, March 11, 1866. See Baptismal records at Ottumwa and Georgetown, and Iowa Census, 1860.

Richard Barrett

Richard Barrett, a son of John Barrett, Sr. It is said he was born in County Cork, Ireland, and came to Iowa about 1856 or 1857 and returned to Indiana. He married a woman by the name of Bridget. He bought land jointly in Decatur County, Woodland Township, with his brother, Ricard. He bought several other pieces of land in Woodland Township but sold them in 1866-1867 according to the abstract office at Leon. He is not listed in the Census of 1860.

Nancy Reardon

Nancy Barrett, daughter of John Barrett, Sr., born in County Cork, Ireland. Married Edward Reardon. If they came to Decatur County, Woodland Township, Iowa, they did not remain long. There is no record of them. Edward Owens says he heard about them from his mother and thinks he heard that they came but returned to Indiana immediately.

William Grogan

William Grogan, born in County Kerry, Ireland, January 2, 1809, died at Leon March 25, 1905. Married Bridget Foley, who was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in February, 1822. She died December 9, 1905. They came to Decatur County in the Summer of 1856.

He was one of the donors of church property in Woodland Township in 1863.

Children:

1. John Grogan, born in County Kerry, Ireland, July 26, 1841. (1844 - Iowa Census, 1860) Died September 25, 1887, buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Margaret Quilty, born 1855, Terre Haute, Indiana. Quilty family lived near Kellerton, Iowa. John and Margaret are the parents of Catherine Grogan - Mrs. J. A. Mullin of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who are parents of Gerald Mullin and Edward Mullin, etc., of Minneapolis.

2. Katherine Grogan (Kate), married a Harris. She died at the age of 88, near Fort Scott, Kansas. She was born in Ireland in 1847.

3. Timothy (Tade) Grogan, born 1850, in Ohio. Married Margaret Daughton. Buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. They had two children: Jimmie Grogan and Nellie Grogan who is Mrs. John Fennell. Margaret Grogan died November 30, 1881, at the age of 25 years, 7 months. She is buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Timothy and Margaret were married at St. Patrick's, Woodland Township, February 8, 1876, by Father Wieland. (Leon Court House, Book 1, page 226.)

4. Michael (Colonel) Grogan, born in Indiana, 1852, died November 12, 1910. Married Kathryn Sullivan at Grand River Catholic Church. Buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

5. Thomas Grogan, born 1853 or 1854, in Indiana, died 1896, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Emma Dillon.

6. Mary Grogan, born 1855, in Illinois. Married John McGraw February 5, 1877, before Father S. F. Wieland at St. Patrick's, Woodland Township. (Book 1, page 335, Leon Court House) Moved to Filmore County, Nebraska. Had seven children. Buried at Exeter, Nebraska. Children are: Hannah, Kathryn, William, Thomas, Emma, James and Helen.

7. Hannah Grogan, also called Bridget, born Woodland Township, Decatur County, Iowa, August 22, 1857. Married Peter Bradley. She died August 6, 1942, and is buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Marriage record at Leon Court House, Book 3. Peter Bradley and Hannah Grogan were married at Woodland December 31, 1883, by Father P. Feely. Hannah Bridget was baptized September 16, 1860, one of eleven, at Ottumwa, Iowa.

8. Robert William Grogan, born August 28, 1860, Decatur County. Died as a child July 18, 1863, buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Baptized at Ottumwa September 16, 1860.

OBITUARY — WILLIAM GROGAN

Leon Journal, Thursday, March 30, 1905

"William Grogan was born in Kerry County, Ireland, January 2, 1809, and died at his home in Leon, Iowa, March 25, 1905, aged 96 years, 2 months

and 23 days. Funeral services were conducted at the residence by Rev. Richard Aid of the Catholic Church March 27, after which the remains were laid to rest in the Catholic Cemetery in Woodland Township.

"The subject of our sketch was the second of seven sons and spent his boyhood days on his father's farm and attended the parish school. February 3, 1843, he married Bridget Foley, who with five children: Mrs. Kate Harris, Tade Grogan, Michael Grogan, Mary McGraw and Hannah Bradley, survive him. In 1848, on account of the oppression of the poor act in Ireland, he left his native land and came with his wife to the United States and landed at New Orleans after a voyage of five weeks and three days on the ocean. In the Spring of 1849, on account of the outbreak of cholera in New Orleans, he moved to Indiana. In 1857 he moved to Decatur County and settled in Woodland Township being the pioneer of the Irish Colony in that township. He was the first to settle in the New Ireland in this county and was instrumental in bringing his brother, Patrick Grogan, Cornelius Hannon, Patrick Mullin, Maurice Daughton, James Dillon and Bartholomew Hallahan from the old home in the new one in this county.

"Being trained in the Catholic Religion in his native land he was ever ready to defend his Faith in his new home and lived a zealous conscientious, Christian Catholic to the close of his life. As an upright public spirited citizen he was loved by all who knew him.

'In his death the community loses a useful citizen, the family a devoted husband and a kind and indulgent father and the Church an ardent supporter. Although dead he yet lives in memory."

OBITUARY — BRIDGET GROGAN

Leon Journal, Thursday, December 14, 1905

"Bridget Grogan died Saturday morning, December 9, 1905, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. P. F. Bradley, aged 83 years, 9 months and 17 days.

"The subject of our sketch was born in County Kerry, Ireland, February 22, 1822. In February, 1843, she married William Grogan and moved with him to the United States in 1848 and sometimes afterwards moved to this County and lived on a farm in Woodland Township until a few years ago where advancing years admonished them to sell the farm and move to town where their daughter could the better look after their comfort and welfare. Her husband preceded her to the spirit world the 25th of March last. Mr. and Mrs. Grogan were raised in the Catholic Faith and were firm supporters of its doctrines, faith and morals till the close of life. Mother Grogan was an affectionate wife, devoted mother and a kind and attentive neighbor and friend. She leaves to mourn her demise five children: two sons, Tade and Michael Grogan; three daughters, Mrs. Kate Harris, Mary McGraw and Hannah Bradley. Funeral services were conducted by Father Aid at the Catholic Church and she was laid to rest by the side of her husband in the Catholic Cemetery in Woodland Township. Thus closes a long and well spent life. May her body rest in the tomb until the resurrection trumpet shall summon her to her final reward."

The Decatur County old settlers' picnic of 1902 was held at Leon and 101 persons signed the book stating that they came to Decatur County in the '50's . . . Mrs. B. Grogan signed that she came to Decatur County in 1856. —Leon Journal, Thursday, August 21, 1902, edition.

Patrick Grogan

Patrick and Frances Grogan and daughter Catherine (O'Grady)

Patrick Grogan, born in County Kerry, Ireland, 1830, died on January 21, 1879, age 48 years, 2 months, 3 days, buried in the Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. One of the donors of church property, 1863, in Woodland Township. Married Frances Bridger, convert, of English descent of New York. She was born in 1832, died December 8, 1923, near Beaconsfield, age 91 years, 2 months, 13 days, buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

Patrick Grogan, at age of 25, unmarried, came to Decatur County in 1856 and lived with the John Barrett family and had 160 acres of unimproved land, according to the 1856 Iowa Census, taken June 1, 1856.

Children:

1. Catherine Grogan, born in Decatur County, Iowa, April 11, 1859. She married Michael O'Grady June 7, 1880, by Father Eugene Phelan, O. S. B., at Samuel Wallace's house.

2. Mary Grogan, born in Decatur County, Iowa, September 25, 1860, died at Shenandoah in January, 1937. She was married October 16, 1883, to Hugh Treanor. Both are buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. They had four daughters.

3. Jane Grogan, born in Decatur County, Iowa, November 10, 1863, married Michael McGraw before Father B. J. Sheridan at Chariton February 22, 1887. They had four children.

4. Mattie (Matilda) Grogan, born in Decatur County, Iowa, in 1864 and died in 1937. Buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. She married James McGraw and they had three children, Marie, Raymond and Gladys.

5. Bridget Grogan, born in Decatur County, Iowa, March 11, 1867, died November 16, 1941, buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Never married. Baptismal record is at Georgetown (Stacyville), Monroe County, near Albia.

6. Elizabeth Ann Grogan, born in Decatur County, Iowa, April 11, 1869. Buried at Afton.

7. Ella Grogan, born Decatur County, Iowa, in 1871, died February 14, 1879, 7 years, 6 months, 26 days. Buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

8. Dennis Robert Grogan, born in Decatur County, Iowa, in October 1873. Buried in Afton. Married Alta Haunstein.

9. John A. Grogan (Little John), born April 29, 1876. Never married. Buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township, 1916.

Michael Griffin

Michael Griffin, native of County Kerry, Ireland, born in 1820, died November 25, 1886, age 66. Married Margaret Foley, native of County Kerry, Ireland, born February 15, 1825, and died February 15, 1903, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. They came to Decatur County, Iowa, in 1857 from Ohio. Purchased land October 13, 1857, in Section 31, Woodland Township. Book 47, Page 170.

1. Patrick Griffin was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1850. Married Sarah E. Wasson of Lineville, May 3, 1886, at Leon, by Father William M. Williams. Book 3, Page 458, No. 1624. He died in 1936 and she died in 1953. Both are buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. There were three children: Homer, Helene and Gussie.

2. Hannah Griffin was born in New Jersey about 1851, died in 1933. Married James Daughton (see Book 1, Page 296, No. 296). Nine children: Emmett, William, Fred, Ralph, Emma Buell, Margaret Tapscott, James P. (Tug of Creston), Leo and Walter. She and husband, James, are buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

3. Daniel Griffin, born in Ohio, in 1854, was married to Catherine Flynn of Decatur County in Catholic Church, Woodland Township. No children. He died in 1933 and she died in 1911. Both are buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

4. Timothy (Tade) James Griffin, born in Ohio, in 1856, died in 1932. Married Julia Sullivan by Father Cook. Both are buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Four children: Winford, Walter Edward, Margaret and Timothy James. They are now living in Colorado and Sheridan, Wyoming. Tade's second wife was Alice Sullivan.

5. Michael Griffin, born in Decatur County September 1, 1857, died November 20, 1944. Buried in Leon City Cemetery, Catholic Plot. Married Jennie Grogan at Catholic Church, Woodland Township. Three children: Bernard (dead); Virgene, school teacher; and Russell of Leon.

6. Mary Griffin, born in Decatur County in 1860, died in 1951, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married James R. Cain. Two children. One lived, Paul of Des Moines.

7. Ella Griffin, born in Decatur County in 1862, died November 4, 1947. Married Wayne Gammon at Maloy Catholic Rectory. No children. Funeral at St. Brendan's in 1947, buried at Leon City Cemetery.

8. Dennis Edward Griffin, born April 15, 1866, in Decatur County, Iowa. Married Anna Ward of Beaconsfield in Catholic Church, Maloy. He died October 11, 1941. Anna died May 7, 1954. Four children, two died young; Edward, another son, died April 10, 1934, survived by wife, Mable, and two sons; and Madelyn Griffin, who married Lynn LaFollette. She has five children and living at Leon.

In February, 1953, I visited and interviewed a Mr. Fred Pittman of Leon who lived with the Griffin family from his ninth year (1882) to about 1903. He said:

"The years that I lived with them as a hired man were happy years. I also enjoyed working with the other Irish families of Ireland. It was like a circus to be around them and in the group because they were the real old Irish with Irish wit and talk. It was better than a show to listen to them.

"Mrs. (Peggy) Griffin was very thrifty. She would take walks into the pasture and around the barn yard picking pieces of wool from nails, fences or sharp points of boards and hazel brush bushes where the sheep had scraped some wool off. She would scower it, dry it, card it, spin it and knit it into socks. Many a pair of socks I bought and wore she made from wool picked up from hazel brush — 25 cents a pair and they were good ones too."

"She also had the habit of picking up feathers and saving them to make pillows — the nicest ones in the country."

Fred said: "Once I met Peggy coming up from the barn. Good morning, I said. She said: Good morning, my goslings have come. How many, I said. She said: An even forty, yes, and less one. She could raise geese and make soap too."

"Once while we were saying the rosary, Fred, a non-Catholic, said: A funny thing happened . . . to which I said: You said the rosary with them? Oh, yes. The hired man was always a part of the family and before we went to bed in the evening we all knelt down and said the rosary together. Who led it? Grandma Griffin did. Sometimes Mary led us."

"The first work I did as a boy was for the Griffins about 1882, after my mother died when I was nine years old. I carried water to the men in the harvest field at five cents a day. And I got cash too. The men harvested oats with the dropper."

"I worked all the time for 24 or 25 years for the old Mike Griffin family. I could always come back to the Griffin home and go to work anytime. There was always a room for me. Mr. Griffin died about 1886 and Mrs. Griffin kept things going until about 1903 when she died and Dennis Edward married Anna Ward and they took over the old home place."

Fred Pittman said: "There was a log house near the family house. I took it down and used the logs to fix fence. It was the original house they lived in when they came to Decatur County and it stood west of the new house."

"Michael Griffin of Woodland Township is building a fine residence." —Leon Journal, July 5, 1883.

"Bat Houlihan once hired young Mike Griffin and Dennis Daughton to cut rails for fence. They agreed to cut them 12 feet long and brought a yard stick (new invention) to measure them. After a while Bat went to the woods to see how they were doing. He stepped them off and found they were not keeping the agreement. He said: "I told you to cut them 12 feet long, they are only 11 feet, boot measure!"

"Once I was doing work at the Billy Grogan farm. There were several of us at the table, talking and eating. Biddie (Bridget - Mrs. Grogan) was

silent and was thinking, she had nothing to say. Then all of a sudden she said: "Billy, is Indiana in Iowa?"

"It was like a circus, better than a show. I enjoyed all my years with them. They were the real old Irish."

"Mrs. Margaret Griffin, one of the oldest and best respected citizens of the community, was buried at the Catholic Cemetery last Tuesday. A large number of sorrowing friends were in attendance." (Leon Reporter: *February 26, 1903, Thursday, Ireland News Item.*)

Maurice Daughton

Maurice and Ellen Daughton

Maurice Daughton, born in County Kerry, Ireland, 1814, died August 2, 1890, buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. He married Ellen

Mullin March 3, 1840. She was born in County Kerry, Ireland, June 22, 1826, died July 10, 1901. Eleven children. They came to Decatur County about September or October, 1858. Bought land in Decatur County November 6, 1858, jointly with brothers-in-law, Dennis and Patrick Mullin. He came to the United States in 1849 and worked in a rock quarry in the east. When he came to Decatur County he had as his ox team, an ox and one old mule.

"Maurice Daughton of Woodland Township is building a new house."—Leon Journal, September 27, 1883.

Children:

1. Bridget Daughton, born in County Kerry, Ireland, in December, 1841, died at Creston December 7, 1928, married at Ottumwa by Father J. A. Kreckel to Samuel D. Wallace November 9, 1861.

2. Julia Daughton, born in County Kerry, Ireland, 1844, buried at Maloy, married Edward Conwell at St. Patrick's Church, Woodland Township, by Father B. A .Cannon R. C. Priest, January 19, 1870, recorded at Georgetown. Eight children. She died about 1932.

3. Joseph Daughton, born County Kerry, Ireland, September 15, 1846, passed away as a young man. Buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Died February 28, 1887.

4. James Daughton, born in County Kerry, Ireland, 1849, died 1938, buried in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Hannah Griffin at Woodland Township church in 1876. Nine children.

5. Margaret Daughton, born April 1, 1856, at Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio. She was two and one-half years old when they came to Decatur County. Buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Timothy (of William) Grogan. She had two children, Nellie Grogan (Mrs. John) Fennell and Jimmie Grogan . . . Paton, Iowa - Denver, Colorado.

6. Johanna Daughton, born April 1, 1856, in Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio. (See stone). Married Stephen John Grogan (of Thomas Grogan). She died in 1927 near Beaconsfield, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Five children: Margaret, Maurice, Dennis, Marie Sheil and Michael.

7. Michael Daughton, born Decatur County, Iowa, October 15, 1858. Died July 14, 1866. Buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

8. William Daughton, born in Decatur County, Iowa, January 9, 1861, died October 11, 1878. Buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

9. Dennis Daughton, born in Decatur County, Iowa, 1863, died April 26, 1945. Married Florence Sheil. Five children: Margarette Schmidt, Elizabeth Plude, Julia, Monica and James of Leon.

10. Kathryn Daughton, born Decatur County, June 5, 1865, baptized by Father McMenomy, record is at Georgetown. Married John Owens April 29, 1889, at Woodland Township Catholic Church before Father T. J. Mullen of Maloy.

11. Elizabeth Daughton, born June 22, 1868, in Decatur County. She was baptized August 6, 1868; record is at Georgetown.

Dennis Mullin

Dennis Mullin, born in County Kerry, Ireland, 1826, and died April 18, 1892, in Taylor County, Iowa, near Maloy. He married Margaret Houlihan, also born in County Kerry, Ireland, 1832, and died January 13, 1920. They were married February 18, 1849. Purchased land in Decatur County, Iowa, in 1858 jointly with brother, Patrick Mullin, and brother-in-law, Maurice Daughton. Brother Patrick did not come to Decatur County until 1866. Dennis Mullin and Maurice Daughton came to Decatur County with their families in 1858. Dennis became a citizen of the United States in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1856.

The Dennis Mullin family lived in Decatur County 18 years and moved from Woodland Township to Taylor County near Maloy in 1876. He died in 1892 and she died in 1920. Both are buried at Catholic Cemetery, Maloy. This information is from the Dennis Mullin Bible, now possessed by a great-granddaughter, Mrs. Helen Monahan, 216 South Peterson, Creston, Iowa. I also talked with Catherine Sullivan, Mrs. Dennis Mullin, Jr., February 24, 1953, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Louis Moore, Kent, Iowa.

Children:

1. Joseph Mullin, born September 15, 1851, died in July, 1854, and twin

2. Michael Mullin, born September 15, 1851, died in November, 1852.

3. July Mullin, born September 1, 1853, died in July, 1854.

4. Bartholemew Mullin, born in Ohio August 24, 1855, and died in Decatur County October 9, 1862. First or oldest grave stone in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

Mrs. Dennis Mullin

5. Mary Mullin, born in Ohio December 29, 1857, married John Hart. Nine children: Margaret, Mary, Elizabeth, Dennis, John, Richard, Caroline, Edward and Helen.

6. Edward (1860 Census names him John Mullin, age 4/12) Mullin, born in Decatur County, Iowa, April 11, 1860, married Ellen Maloney. He died December 5, 1915, age 55 years, 7 months, 24 days. Six children: Edward, Mary, Bernard, William, Leo, James, John.

7. Ellen Nell Mullin, born Decatur County, Iowa, July 20, 1862. Married Chancey Shay. She died December 2, 1941. Two boys, Eddie and Dennis R.

8. Dennis Mullin, Jr., born Decatur County, Iowa, January 6, 1865, married Mary Catherine Sullivan, who was born in Leon September 16, 1869, of Roger Sullivan and Hannah Dillon (Sullivan Lambert). Mrs. Dennis Mullin is living now with one of her children, Mrs. Louis Moore, Kent, Iowa. Dennis Mullin, Jr., died January 29, 1948, at Maloy. Five children: Roger, James, Catherine, Maurice and Robert.

9. John Martin Mullin, born in Decatur County, Iowa, September 1, 1867. His baptismal record is at Georgetown. He married Nano - Nore O'-Connor. He died May 14, 1947. Seven children: Brian, James, Tom, Margaret, May, Eugene and Helen.

10. Catherine Mullin, born Decatur County, Iowa, September 16, 1870, died February 5, 1896. Never married. Baptismal record is at Georgetown.

11. James Mullin, born in Decatur County May 25, 1873, died May 4, 1881. Baptismal record is at Bauer.

12. William Patrick Mullin, born in Taylor County near Maloy March 3, 1878. Married Ella Lambert. He died January 13, 1936, buried at Maloy. Seven children: Joseph, Madge, Edward, Kathleen, Donald, Regina and Julia.

DENNIS MULLIN

Naturalization Certificate America our only Country

The State of Ohio, Fairfield County (ss) I, John Radebaugh, clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, within and for said County, certify that at the October term of said Court, A. D. 1856, (October), Dennis Mullin, a native of Ireland, was duly admitted to Citizenship of the United States of America and is therefore entitled to all the rights and privileges of a naturalized citizen.

Intestimony whereof, I, as Clerk of said Court, have hereunto fixed my seal this sixth day of October, 1856.

Signed: J. Radebaugh C. F. C. P.

Bartholomew Houlihan

Bartholomew Houlihan, born 1789, Parish of Killchana, County Kerry Ireland. Married Mary Galvin who was born in 1803 in Ireland. He died December 6, 1884, age 95 years, buried at Maloy (see stone). She died December 12, 1893, age 90 years, buried at Catholic Cemetery, Maloy. They came to Decatur County, Iowa, before 1860, perhaps with their daughter, Mrs.

Dennis Mullin, in 1858. They moved to Taylor County about 1877 with the Dennis Mullin famiily.

Ed Owens says Bartholomew Houlihan rode a horse many times back to Woodland Township to visit and stay for several days with old Irish families.

Lewis Bright told me (November 12, 1954) that Mrs. Houlihan was always present when any of the women were having a baby (Protestant or Catholic) in the settlement around Ireland. She was the mid-wife. Lewis said "When my brother, Robert, was born Mrs. Houlihan took care of things." (The Brights were non-Catholic.)

John Wallace

John Wallace, born in Belfast, Ireland, 1813, and came to Decatur County in 1852. Married Mary Monsen, who was born in New York in 1818.

They were both baptized as Catholics by Father Timothy Clifford, pastor of Georgetown, April 27, 1864. John Wallace died December 12, 1893. Mary died June 22, 1872.

His mother was Margaret Ross of County Antrim, born 1790, died 1867, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. She was a Catholic. Married an Orangemen, Peter Wallace, Sr. They had two sons, John and Peter.

Children:

1. Margaret Wallace, born in Ohio, 1840.

2. Samuel Wallace, born in Ohio in 1841, become a Catholic in 1861, baptised by Father John A. Kreckel at Ottumwa, married Bridget Daughton at Ottumwa, three weeks after baptism, by Father J. A. Kreckel. He and she were outstanding Catholics.

3. Mary A. Wallace, born in Ohio, 1842 or 1843. She is grandmother of Father Frank Marlin, Diocese of Davenport. Married William Barrett and they had three sons and four daughters.

4. Elizabeth Wallace, born in Ohio, 1843, married Patrick Flynn. She was baptised September 20, 1861, at Ottumwa by Father Kreckel. Elizabeth and Patrick are buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

5. Joseph Wallace, born in Ohio, 1850, died at Elks Home.

6. Catherine Wallace, born in Decatur County, 1853.

7. George Wallace, born in Decatur County, 1855.

8. William Wallace.

Samuel Wallace

Samuel and Bridget Wallace

Samuel Dunsmore Wallace, born in Ohio in 1841, baptised a Catholic October 20, 1861, and married November 9, 1861, to Bridget Daughton at Ottumwa by Father Kreckel. He was first convert of Decatur County to Catholic Church (unless it would have been Frances Bridger - Mrs. Pat Grogan) according to records to be found. Both Samuel and Bridget are buried at Creston. He came to Decatur County in 1852 and moved to Creston in 1891.

Children:

1. John S. H. Wallace, born in Decatur County August 22, 1862, died age 78, buried at Creston. Married Mary C. McCann.

2. Mary Ellen Wallace, born in Decatur County February 17, 1864, married Thomas McGraw. She died April 17, 1898, at Omaha and was buried at Creston.

3. Julia Wallace, born January 24, 1866 in Decatur County, died age 24, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Died July 26, 1890.

4. Charles Francis Wallace, born in Decatur County September 2, 1867. Died March 20, 1884, age 16 years 6 months. Baptized at St. Ambrose, Des Moines, by Father B. A. Cannon. Buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

5. Baby, born March 4, 1869, died.

6. James D. Wallace, born December 12, 1869, at Woodland Township, Decatur County, now living five miles north of Creston, Iowa. Baptismal record at Georgtown.

7. Maurice Edward Wallace, born at Woodland Township, Decatur County, Iowa, in September, 1871. Never married.

8. Elizabeth Wallace, born Woodland Township, Decatur, Iowa, August 12, 1873, married Larry Cusack. She is living with James, her brother, north of Creston. Baptismal record at Bauer.

9. George Wallace, born north of Grand River in Decatur County, November 20, 1876, married Mary Madden. He died at Creston in 1952. They had five boys and one girl. Baptismal record at Creston, Iowa.

10. Infant, born north of Grand River and died August 7, 1878.

James Wallace and Elizabeth Cusack told me the following about the Samuel Wallace family when I visited their home north of Creston in 1953:

"We were all born in Woodland Township except George and a baby that died who were born near Grand River. We lived in Woodland Township

until 1875 when my dad chose to go out west of Omaha, Nebraska, and homestead some land. I (James) was five or six years old and can remember we were all packed up and in a covered wagon early in the darkness of the morning. Many of the neighbors of around Ireland were there to say goodbye. I was enjoying the excitement. It was fun to me until I asked why all were crying. They told me we would never see these people again. Then I began to cry!

"Finally we drove away on the road to Leon, next by Decatur and that evening we were north of Grand River passing by Ed Conwell's place where my Dad stopped. Neddie Conwell came out and said: "Where are you going?" My Dad said: "We are going out west of Omaha and settle on some land the government has opened for homestead." Neddie said: "Samuel, do you know what you are doing? Taking those seven children out there where there is nothing but grass, no school, no church. They will grow up wild, uneducated and lose the faith." Samuel said: "Well, what should I do? I have sold out at Woodland Township." Neddie said: "Mr. John Morgan, a couple of miles northwest of here, wants to sell out." My Dad and Neddie went to see him and that night they returned and my Dad had bought him out. That was in March, 1875."

(S. D. Wallace, March 25, 1875, bought 40 acres in Section 6, also 40 acres in Section 5 in Richland Township from John Morgan. Paid $2,300 for the 80 acres. Leon Abstract and Title Co.)

The Wallace family remained there in the northwest corner of Decatur County until 1890 when they sold out in 1891 and moved up north of Creston, Iowa. While living north of Grand River, Samuel hauled timbers to help build St. Malachy's Church at Creston.

James Wallace said to me: "I, Maurice and Elizabeth were confirmed at Kellerton about 1888. Father Mullen was the priest. Father Williams was previous to him. Cosgrove was the Bishop. We had a team of mules and they ran away with a new wagon into a hedge fence."

Samuel and Bridget Wallace are listed with the founders of Dowling High in Des Moines. The altar at Saint Patrick's Church, Grand River, Iowa, was given by their children in their memory.

Patrick Mullin Family

Patrick Mullin

Patrick Mullin, brother to both Dennis Mullin and Mrs. Ellen (Maurice) Daughton, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, February 29, 1828, died February 3, 1905, buried in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. He married Margaret C. Hoffines who was born December 8, 1838. She was a convert to the Catholic Faith and faithful to her duties. She died April 29, 1929, age 90 plus.

Patrick Mullin purchased land together with his brother, Dennis, and his brother-in-law, Maurice Daughton, in Section 19, Woodland Township, in 1858, but he did not come to Iowa with them from Pickaway County, Ohio, (Ashville) until in September, 1866, when he brought his wife and three children to Iowa. He purchased 200 acres in Eden Township of Decatur County in January, 1867, and it was unimproved.

Children:

1. Joseph Willard Mullin, born in Ohio, in May, 1860, died April 16, 1922, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Margaret Ellen Barrett. Eight children. Mrs. Buckingham is one of them remaining as a member of Leon Parish.

2. Rose Altha, born January 1, 1863, died in April, 1865.

3. Mary Martha Jane Mullin (Grogan), born Pickaway, Ohio, October 18, 1864, married Michael Grogan. Nine children. She died October 24, 1953, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Mrs. Alice (Nathan) Boyce is only one in Leon Parish.

4. Nancy (Nannie) Elizabeth, born in Ohio, March 26, 1866. Never married. Died at Des Moines December 14, 1927, buried in Woodland Catholic Cemetery.

5. Samuel Michael Mullin, born in Decatur County, Iowa, December 14, 1867. Never married. Died in October, 1914, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

6. Jonas Albert Mullin, born in Decatur County February 24, 1870, died December 24, 1927, buried at Minneapolis, Minn. Married Kate Grogan (daughter of John Grogan and Margaret Quilty). Kate lives in Minneapolis, 1955. Five children.

7. Julia Alice Mullin, born in Decatur County, Iowa, February 12, 1872, died December 1, 1911, married Henry Perfield. Three children. State of Oregon. One daughter is a nun in Oregon.

8. James Patrick Mullin, born in Decatur County, Iowa, October 9, 1873, and died March 30, 1950. Buried at Minneapolis, Minn.

9. Catherine Ellen Mullin, born in Decatur County February 26, 1875, married Frank Hickman. Both are living in South Dakota.

10. William Henry Mullin, born in Decatur County, Iowa, October 17, 1876, died November 25, 1932, at Silverton, Colorado. He married Kitty Alword who died January 8, 1921. Five children. He married Kate Conway and had one child. She died June 11, 1932.

11. Dennis Edward Mullin, born in Decatur County, Iowa, May 28, 1878, died October 24, 1953 (same day as his sister, Mary Grogan), in St.

Louis, Mo., and was buried there. He married Teresa (Tess) Penny and had two children.

12. Stephen Maurice Mullin, born January 14, 1880, in Decatur County, Iowa, is living at Durango, Colorado. Married Mary Cole and had one child. Wife died. He remarried a Lelah and has one child.

13. Margaret Etna, born in Decatur County, Iowa, December 17, 1881, married Bert Stiles. Two daughters. She died and was buried from St. Brendan's December 1, 1955.

14. George Laurence Mullin, born in Decatur County, Iowa, April 17, 1883, married Florence Webster. Living at Long Beach, Calif. Retired Rock Island Railroad conductor, Des Moines to Davenport, Chicago run.

15. Clement Thomas (Grover Cleveland) Mullin, born in Decatur County, Iowa, February 21, 1885, married Mae McGinty. Four children. He is living at Minneapolis, Minn.

Maggie Mullin (Stiles), Nannie Mullin, Kate Mullin (Hickman), Julia Mullin (Perfield)

Margaret C. Hoffines Mullin, the mother, became a Catholic and was baptized in Ohio with the first three children.

All the children made a success of their lives by themselves.

Patrick Mullin was buried February 5, 1905, at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township, (told by an eye-witness). "Patrick died at home 12 miles north of Leon. He was taken by bobsled 12 miles north of Leon to 10 miles southeast of Leon to the Catholic Cemetery. Snow was very high, so high that we had to cut the fences and go across fields, the roads were impassable. It was below zero. (It was 24 degrees below zero the day before he was buried according to The Leon Journal weather reports.) They had to borrow fresh teams of horses as they went along from farmers. When we arrived at the cemetery several men and women who lived near the new unfinished church were present. There was no priest available. The few who were present with the remains of Patrick Mullin went inside the church. There were pieces of boards, wood shavings and plaster on the floor. We had no heat but were glad to get inside out of the wind. It was getting late in the afternoon and the February sun was going down. We stood around the box and the only ceremony was Samuel Wallace of Creston led us in saying the Rosary and the Litany. Then we took the casket out and buried Patrick Mullin."

Maggie Mullin Stiles says they came to Iowa in a covered wagon in September, 1866, from Pickaway County, ~~Iowa~~ Ohio

The Leon Journal, February 9, 1905, says: "Sunday the burial of Patrick Mullin at the Catholic Cemetery, Ireland. Several people and the priest from Creston attended." (Leonard Mullin and others told me that it was not a priest but it was Samuel Wallace who led them in the rosary.)

Temperature report from The Leon Journal:

February 3, 1905, Friday, the day he died, 12 below.

February 4, 1905, Saturday, day before funeral, 24 below.

February 5, 1905, Sunday, day of burial, 9 above.

Also reported was an item that "snow was never so deep in Decatur County."

In 1896, Patrick Mullin and wife, Margaret, deeded their interest to Bishop Smyth (Catholic Church) which they had in Section 19, Woodland Township, Decatur County, Iowa, upon which the church and cemetery had been erected and established. He had purchased this in 1858 jointly with his brother, Dennis, and brother-in-law, Maurice Daughton, and his name appears on original purchase contract but he did not come to Iowa until 1866, eight years after his brother and brother-in-law came and therefore he was not present to sign the deed September 22, 1863, when ten acres were deeded to Bishop Smyth. So there was a flaw in the deed to the church. In 1896 when he and his wife, Margaret, signed a deed, that cleared up the title.

James Dillon

James Dillon, born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1802, died August 4, 1867, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Catherine Griffin who was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1812. She died January

11, 1892, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. They came to Decatur County a year before he died, according to W. D. Frost, i. e., 1866, from Pickaway County, Ohio.

Children:

1. Thomas Dillon, born in County Kerry, Ireland, June 24, 1838, died November 4, 1892, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Catherine Hoover (a convert) in Ohio. Four children.

2. Mary Dillon, born 1843, died March 20, 1904, age 61, buried in the Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

3. Hannah Dillon, born in 1847 or 1848 in Ireland, married to Roger Sullivan at Catholic Church, Woodland Township, in 1868. Two children: Mary Catherine Sullivan (Mrs. Dennis Mullin) born in Leon September 16, 1869, and Carol Ann Sullivan (Warin) born 1872 in Leon. Hannah remarried after Roger Sullivan died, to John Lambert and moved to Maloy. Had a Rose and William Lambert. (See Roger Sullivan families.)

I talked to Catherine Sullivan (Mrs. Dennis Mullin, Jr.) February 24, 1953, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Louis Moore, Kent, Iowa, and obtained much of the information regarding the Dillon and Sullivan families.

Thomas Dillon

Thomas Dillon, born in County Kerry, Ireland, June 24, 1838, died November 4, 1892, buried Woodland Township Catholic Cemetery. Married Catherine Hoover, born January 21, 1838, died March 11, 1895. She is buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. They came from (Circleville) Pickaway County, Ohio, to Decatur County in 1866. Catherine Hoover became a Catholic, baptized by Father Henry Malone of Maloy in 1893.

A Thomas Dillon bought 40 acres in Section 12, Eden Township, from Warren Hall September 27, 1864.

Children:

1. Emma Dillon, born in 1864, died January 11, 1922, buried at Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Baptismal record at Georgetown by Father McMenomy January 24, 1867. Married Thomas Grogan (of William). No children.

2. Mary Melvina — Mary Ann Dillon, born April 23, 1865, baptismal record at Georgetown, died October 9, 1915, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. She married J. Record. One daughter, Lua Ruben, Oklahoma City, baptized 1898.

3. Hannah E. Dillon, born in Decatur County June 15, 1867, died February 19, 1941, age 73, buried City Cemetery of Leon. Married William Frost. Two sons: William Dillon Frost of Leon, two daughters, Des Moines and Chicago. Walter Frost of Leon has five children. Hannah E. Dillon taught school at Ireland School, Woodland Township, from September, 1896, to 1898.

4. Nana Dillon, born December 17, 1870, married William Young. They lived in Ohio. She was baptized by Father B. A. Cannon of Georgetown by name Ann.

Cornelius Hannon

Cornelius Hannon, born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1813, and died in 1891, married Mary Griffin, born in County Kerry, 1817, died January 11, 1905. Both are buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. He bought land in Decatur County, Section 24 of Eden Township, from James W. Gammon September 23, 1858. He sold to Michael and Timothy Griffin, August 31, 1883, and moved to Taylor County.

1. Michael, married Elizabeth Dale. They had six children: Katherine (Kitt), Margaret, Emmett, Nellie, Winifrid and Michael.

2. Hannah, born in 1852, died July 21, 1939, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

3. Cornelius, born in 1857, died September 21, 1939, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

4. Mary C., born April 1, 1861, died March 1, 1909, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

Roger Sullivan

Roger Sullivan was born in New York in 1841 of Carey and Mary Sullivan. The parents were originally from County Kerry, Ireland.

Roger was one of five girls and two boys. They were Johanna Sullivan, Honora Sullivan Donnelly, Henrietta Sullivan (married Richard Shey), Mary Sullivan Richardson, Maggie Sullivan Murphy and John Sullivan.

Roger came to Ottumwa and was the only one to come to Decatur County, Iowa. He came to Leon in 1866 or 1867 and became the brewer in Leon. In 1867 or 1868 he married Hannah Dillon, a daughter of James Dillon and Catherine Griffin at the Catholic Church in Woodland Township, Decatur County, Iowa, according to his daughter, Mrs. Dennis Mullin, Jr., of Kent, Iowa. He died July 9, 1871, of sunstroke while helping in the hayfield down in Ireland. Hannah Dillon, his wife, was born in Ireland in 1847 or 1848.

Children:

1. Mary Catherine, born in the town of Leon September 16, 1869, married Dennis Mullin, Jr. I visited her February 24, 1953, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Louis Moore, of Kent, Iowa. Children are Roger, James, Catherine, Maurice and Robert.

2. Carol Ann Sullivan was born in Leon in February, 1872, seven months after her father, Roger Sullivan, died. She married George Warin of Maloy, Iowa. She died February 26, 1945. They had several children.

After Roger Sullivan died, Hannah, his wife, married John Lambert of Ringgold County about 1875 and had a Rose Lambert and William Lambert.

Decatur County Journal, July 13, 1871, Gen. and Miscl. says: "Mr. R. Sullivan, the brewer, died suddenly last Sunday, congestion of the brain was the cause."

Iowa Census of July 4, 1870, says Roger Sullivan, age 29, male, white, occupation brewer, value of real estate $100.00. Value of personal property $100.00, born in New York State. Wife Hannah, age 22, born in Ireland. One child, Mary C., 10 months, born in Iowa.

His daughter, Mrs. Mary Catherine Sullivan Mullin, said: "I went to school in Woodland Township and lived with my grandmother Dillon until I was 14 years old. Then I went to Ottumwa to school at Ottumwa Heights. I remember seeing Father Kreckel many times at the Ottumwa school. I don't think he ever came to Decatur County. I remember hearing the people of Woodland Township speak about having Mass in their homes before I was born, 1869. In 1883, when I was 14 years old I can remember the addition on the old church."

Census 1870. June 1. Vol. 112, Decatur County, Woodland Township.

	Horses	Mules and Asses	Milk Cows	Working Oxen	Other Cows	Sheep	Swine
Grogan, William	1	0	9	8	9	23	27
Barrett, John	4	0	4	1	0	27	23
Owens, Thomas	2	0	2	0	4	8	0
Grogan, Pat	3	0	4	0	6	19	11
Wallace, John	3	0	8	0	20	30	11
Daughton, M.	2	0	7	10	4	15	16
Griffin, M.	9	0	6	4	14	48	19
Houlihan, Batt	6	0	6	0	2	21	22

Total Horses June 1, 1870 — 30

Total Working Oxen June 1, 1870 — 23

Thomas Grogan

Ella Grogan Katherine Grogan Edith Bryson

Maggie Mullin Cleo Bryson Nellie Barrett

Thomas Grogan, born September 9, 1830, in County Kerry, Ireland, died September 20, 1875, married Catherine Hassett, also born in Ireland March 16, 1836, and died August 12, 1900. Both are buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Thomas was a cousin to William and Patrick Grogan. He purchased 40 acres, 68-24-19, in Woodland Township, from his cousin, Patrick, September 14, 1869. Book 12, Page 109.

Children.

1. Stephen John Grogan, born in Missouri in 1859 and died August 14, 1930, at Beaconsfield, Iowa, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Hannah Daughton. Five children: Margaret Ward, Maurice, Dennis, Marie Sheil, Michael.

2. Michael C. Grogan, born in 1863 in New York, died in 1916, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Mary Martha Jane Mullin who died in 1953, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Nine children: Mrs. Alice (Nathan) Boyce is only one living in this parish. Mrs. Boyce has two daughters living in this parish and five grandchildren. Margaret Sponsler and Maurine Williamson.

3. Jeannie Grogan, born at Cooperstown, New York, January 9, 1865, married Michael Griffin. She died November 23, 1941. Three children: One died young, Virgene Griffin, school teacher, and Russell of Leon. Jeannie and Michael are buried in Catholic Plot, Leon City Cemetery.

4. William Grogan, born in New York in 1867 and died in 1919. Never married. Buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

5. Kate (Katherine) Grogan, born in Decatur County June 24, 1870, never married, died May 28, 1946. Buried Leon Cemetery Catholic Plot. Baptismal record at Georgetown.

6. Ella Grogan, born in Decatur County January 11, 1875, baptismal record at Bauer. Never married. Ella taught school in Decatur County for 57 years. Ella received a Pontifical Blessing in 1950. She was an excellent Catholic and citizen. Died January 31, 1952, buried in Catholic Plot, Leon City Cemetery.

Patrick Flynn

Patrick Flynn, born in 1831 in Ireland and came to the United States when nine years old with family and settled in Pennsylvania. Later following railroad work with mules building road beds. Worked on building North Western Railroad to Des Moines. Had many teams of mules. He married Elizabeth Wallace. Their marriage license was issued at Albia Court House January 10, 1864. Patrick Flynn died November 11, 1911, and she died January 31, 1913. Both are buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

Children:

1. Martin Flynn, born in Monroe County November 17, 1864, and died May 31, 1890, and is buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

2. Catherine Ann Flynn (Mrs. Dan Griffin), born Monroe County March 27, 1866, baptized at Georgtown April 1, 1866. Died in 1911, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. No children.

3. Mary Ellen Flynn, born July 10, 1868, Monroe County, baptismal record August 7, 1868, at St. Ambrose Church, Des Moines, by Father John F. Brazill. She never married, lived at Leon and died at Leon October 18, 1944, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

4. Margaret (Maggie) Flynn, born November 2, 1873, in Decatur County, married Fred Atkins in 1898, who was baptized the same day he was married. Maggie Flynn Atkins died in 1899 on February 8.

5. James Pat. Flynn, born in Decatur County, February 24, 1875, baptized March 21, 1875, record at Bauer. Died in Colorado June 22, 1953, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

6. Alice (Bridget) Flynn, born in Decatur County, 1877, married Frank D. Delaney. He is dead. Alice lives at Keokuk, Iowa. She has a daughter, Mary H. Delaney, and son, Francis Delaney, and several grandchildren.

7. John T. Flynn, born in Decatur County, 1880. Married Elyda Zimmermann. Mary, Howard and Patricia are members of the parish.

Francis McGovern

Francis McGovern, born in Ireland, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Anna Mary Murphy. They came to Decatur County perhaps sometime before 1870.

Children:

1. Catherine McGovern, born in Pennsylvania, 1850, married Patrick Mohoney. Children: Mary G., Frank, Charles, William E., and Cecilia.

2. Francis H. M. McGovern, born in Decatur County. Baptismal record is at Georgetown, born July 15, 1868, baptized August 6, 1868. Roger Sullivan and Hannah Griffin, sponsors, by Father B. P. McMemony.

3. Tressa McGovern, born in Decatur County, 1873, died in 1949, buried in Leon City Cemetery.

Daniel Sullivan

Daniel Sullivan, born in Ireland November 21, 1845. His father was Michael Sullivan and mother was Mary. He died March 10, 1915. Buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Julia Maheney who was born in Ireland May 12, 1845, died July 9, 1898, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. They were married at Ottumwa in 1869 and came to Decatur County in 1871 or 1872.

Previous to this marriage Julia had married John Hunt in 1864 but he died in May, 1865, leaving her with a son, Walter Hunt, who was born November 12, 1865, five months after the father's death. Walter Hunt died in February, 1883, and had taken the name of Sullivan.

Daniel Sullivan purchased land in High Point Township from A. C. Lockwood December 7, 1872. He had worked on the railroad. He sold this land to his father-in-law, Dennis Mahoney, in November, 1873.

Children:

1. Walter Hunt Sullivan, born November 12, 1865, died in February, 1883.

2. Catherine Sullivan, born August 25, 1870, died in 1870.

3. Mary Sullivan, born in Wapello County July 2, 1871, died in Baltimore, Maryland, December 7, 1943. Married a Charles Boylan, January 10, 1901, who died at St. Paul, Minn., in 1927. One son died as an infant. An adopted daughter, Catherine, born in 1912, died November 15, 1936, in Baltimore. All are buried at St. Paul, Minn.

4. Michael Sullivan, born in Decatur County June 30, 1873. Baptismal record at Bauer July 23, 1873. He died at Leon, buried at Lineville, Iowa, January 4, 1941. Married Frances Sears, Leon school teacher, May 31, 1919. She was born in 1886, died July 20, 1934, buried at Lineville.

5. Patrick Sullivan, born in Decatur County March 8, 1875, baptismal record at Bauer May 23, 1875. Died March 7, 1918, at Grand River, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Della Swope. Four children: John, Harriett, Francis and Alice.

6. Julia Sullivan, born in Decatur County May 21, 1877, died December 28, 1908, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Timothy James Griffin on February 22, 1898. Four children: Winford, Walter, Margaret, Timothy James.

7. Catherine Sullivan, born in Decatur County October 12, 1879, married Michael (Col.) Grogan May 10, 1897, by Father J. A. Cook. He died June 10, 1910, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Two children: Thomas and Felix.

8. Alice Sullivan, born in Decatur County September 12, 1883, died February 4, 1915. Married her sister Julia's husband, Timothy Griffin, after Julia died in 1908. Buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

9. Elizabeth Sullivan, born November 11, 1886, died in February, 1908, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Joseph Ward in February, 1907. One son, Patricius Ward, born December 22, 1907.

Dennis Mahoney

Dennis Mahoney, born in Ireland, 1814, died in 1894, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Mary Reardon, also born in Ireland, 1820. She died in 1886, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Dennis purchased land in 1873 from his son-in-law, Daniel Sullivan.

Children:

1. Julia Mahoney, born in Ireland, May 12, 1845 or 1846. Married John Hunt. They had one son, Walter Hunt, born November 12, 1865. He died in February, 1883. Her husband, John Hunt, died year after marriage. Julia then married Daniel Sullivan at Ottumwa in 1869 and later came to Decatur County, Iowa. They had eight children. Julia Mahoney Sullivan died July 9, 1898, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

2. Patrick Mahoney, born in New York, 1850, died February 13, 1941, buried Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Married Catherine McGovern who died in 1917. Children: Mary G., Frank, Charles, William E., and Cecilia Shultz.

3. Daniel Mahoney, born in New York, 1856.

4. Mary Mahoney, born in New York, 1858, died June 1, 1940, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Never married.

5. Ellen Mahoney, born in Wapello County, Iowa, 1860. School teacher in 1884. Married Rickard Barrett. She died March 16, 1941, buried in Catholice Cemetery, Woodland Township. Children: Mary Barrett Masterson, Helen Barry, William D. Barrett, Grace Barrett, John died young. Ten grandchildren: Bernie Masterson, Margaret Gore, Catherine Hay, James Barry, Pauline Barry Davis, Robert Barry, Richard Barrett, Donald Barrett, Mary Agnes Barrett, Margaret Ann Barrett.

Joseph Peters
John Barry

Joseph Peters, born in the United States in 1847, died July 13, 1879, married Louisa Ketterer. She was born in Lee County in February, 1854 (according to 1885 census). Purchased land in Decatur County, Woodland Township March 17, 1877. They came to Decatur County shortly after 1871. I have been told they came from around Fairfield, Iowa, in Jefferson County, in the southeast part of Iowa. Ketterers also live near Conception, Mo., Both are buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

Children:

1. John Joseph Peters, born in Decatur County, Iowa, November 4, 1873, baptized November 30, 1873, record at Bauer. He lives in Oregon (Gervais).

2. Katherine Ann Peters, born in Decatur County, January 7, 1875, baptized January 24, 1875, record at Bauer. Died June 11, 1951. Married Charles Smith. Lived life in California and buried there.

3. Mary Magdalen Peters, born October 8, 1876, baptized October 25, 1876, record at Bauer. Died May 12, 1877, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

4. Francis J. Peters, born May 14, 1878, baptized June 15, 1878, record at Bauer. Died January 7, 1879, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

5. Margaret Peters — Sister Mary Philomena, Sisters of Saint Francis, Maryville Mo. — born in Decatur County December 21, 1879. She died April 20, 1946.

Mr. Joseph Peters died July 13, 1879, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

Mrs. Peters married John Barry March 30, 1880, before Father E. Hayes at Catholic Church, Woodland Township. Mr. Barry came from County Cork, Ireland, in 1874, born in Ireland January 6, 1839, died November 26, 1911, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. Louisa Barry died November 7, 1924. Buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

John Barry and Louisa (Ketterer) Barry

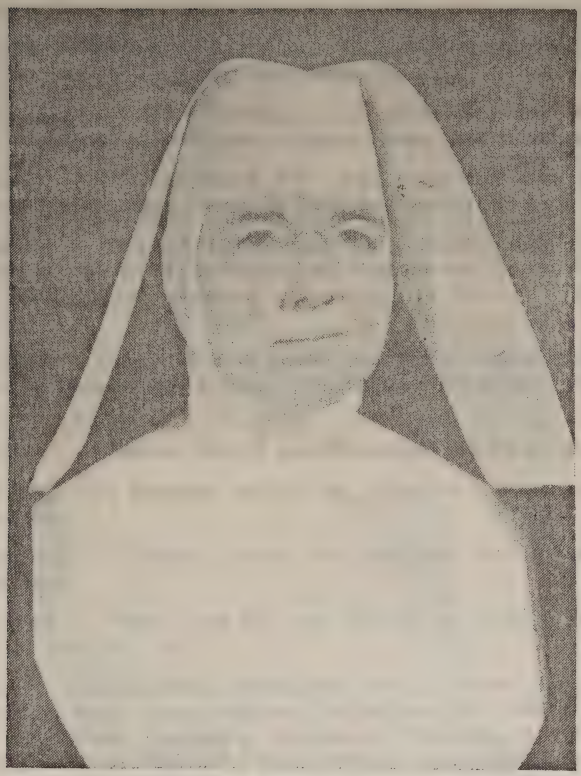
Children:

6. Elizabeth Florence Barry, born in Decatur County August 11, 1881. She is living in Seattle, Washington.

7. Bridget Clara Barry, born in Decatur County July 29, 1883. She married Peter McCarthy, living in Los Angeles, California. Children: Two girls, both nuns; three boys: One, Clement R. McCarthy, a priest, Oblate of Mary Immaculate, working as missionary in Philippine Island.

8. Stephen Walter Barry, born in Decatur County September 7, 1885, married Helen Barrett May 23, 1918, first marriage in St. Brendan's Church building. Stephen died May 5, 1955, in Decatur City, buried in Catholic Plot, Leon City Cemetery. Children: James of California, Pauline Davis of California, Robert of Des Moines.

9. James Leo Barry, born in Decatur County November 5, 1887. Married Harriett Sullivan. They moved from Decatur County about 1939 to Conception, Mo., to original Ketterer farm. She died March 6, 1941. James and children are living near Conception, Mo. Four children: Edward, Catherine, Joseph, Mary.



Sister Mary Charles Borromeo Sister of Humility of Mary of Ottumwa, Iowa

10. Agnes Theresa Barry (S. M. Barromeo), born in Decatur County April 4, 1890. Entered Sisters of Humility, Ottumwa, Iowa, April 30, 1910. Died in religion at Ottumwa February 11, 1955.

11. Laurence Leonard Barry, born May 12, 1892, in Decatur County. Married Olive Coontz of Decatur County. Four children: Maurice, Margaret, Mary, John. All living in Joliet, Illinois.

12. Andrew Edward Barry, born in Decatur County August 28, 1894. Andrew is living in Leon. Married Margaret Walton. Has one daughter, Virgene Brown, and two grandchildren, Connie and Bobbie Brown, all of Leon.

13. Patrick Henry Barry, born in Decatur County October 15, 1897. Married, has three children living in California.

"Married in the Catholic Church in Woodland Township March 30 by Father Hayes, John Barry to Mrs. Louisa Peters."—Leon Journal, Thursday, April 8, 1880.

"John Barry visited the Journal office to renew his subscription. John came from County Cork, Ireland, 22 years ago and not long afterwards settled in this county. He is a good Republican, industrious and intelligent citizen."—Leon Journal, Thursday, December 24, 1896.

"Quite a number of the Catholics attended Mass at John Barry's Friday."Leon Journal, January 12, 1905, Thursday Edition, Ireland News Item.

"Sister Mary Barromeo and Mother Mary Ligouri came last Thursday from Ottumwa to visit at the home of Mrs. Louisa Barry near Leon."—Leon Journal, August 8, 1918, Thursday Edition.

(Note: Mother Mary Ligouri of Sisters of Humility, Ottumwa, was a Ketterer, a sister of Mrs. Louisa Barry.)

There were other families who lived near Woodland Township or near the Ireland Church in 1875 or moved in later. Most of them soon moved away.

Kritz — Sylvester Kritz and Mary Schmidt. They lived north of the Barrys but moved up north near Milo, Iowa.

Brennan — John Brennan and Mary Bromint lived near Lineville. Several baptismal records are at Bauer, Iowa, and at Trenton, Mo.

Stack — Michael Stack and Ann Sutheran. One baptismal record at Georgetown states they lived in Decatur County in 1869.

Ogden — William Ogden and Mary Brady came from Navoo, Illinois, about 1875 and lived northeast of Pleasanton, Iowa. They are buried in Illinois. Children all married and moved to Canada, Des Moines and California.

Leahy — Daniel Patrick Leahy and Mary Fandina Rebbe. Both are buried back in Petersburg, Illinois. Contributed generously to new St. Brendan's Church.

Hurley — Daniel Hurley and Elizabeth McClure. Moved out west.

Murphy — Murphy family of Lineville, Iowa, baptismal records at Trenton, Mo.

Drahan — Drahan family of Lineville, Iowa. Baptismal records at Trenton, Mo.

Kempf — Mary, age 64, was buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township, July 28, 1879.

Other families came during the '80's or later — John O'Boyle familiy, now live at Vail, Iowa. Edward Comerford of County Waterford, Ireland, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. A. W. Bryson moved out west. Mrs. William McDaniel and children. Mrs. Harry Spicer is the only one living in Leon. Rose Rachail Farrell, Mrs. Lewis Bright and children. Several first Communion records at Maloy of a Kirwin family of Leon, 1895-1899. Moved to Des Moines. Several Pritchard records are at Maloy. They moved away about 1910. The John Caufield family now lives in Des Moines.

Peter Martin, born Mullingar, Ireland, in 1832, was a Civil War veteran and had a stroke in August, 1894, and died three weeks later. He is buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. His wife and children returned to Omaha.

Elizabeth Crane, the widow of Mark Crane, resides in Leon.

Some time ago I was visiting with John (Cappy) Walsh of Des Moines, an old schoolmate of mine of Dowling High School. He told me that his parents and family once lived at Van Wert many years ago when his father, Larry Walsh, worked for the old Keokuk and Western Railroad that once ran through Van Wert.

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The old cathedral of Bardstown was started in 1816, finished in 1819 and is now Saint Joseph's Parish Church of Bardstown, Ky.

Chapter IV

THE EARLY CHURCH

1. To Ottumwa

The Catholic Church in Decatur County began in 1856 as a mission in Woodland Township served by pastors of Ottumwa, Georgetown, Bauer, Mt. Ayr, Maloy and Chariton. Catholics near Grand River were served also for awhile, 1874 through 1882, by the Benedictine Fathers of Creston. Finally in 1916, Bishop Austin Dowling of Des Moines appointed Father J. C. Maher first resident pastor and soon plans were completed to erect the new St. Brendan's Church edifice in Leon.

A History of the Catholic Church of Decatur County should also include a recognition of the mission church, Saint Mary's, Andover, Missouri, which once stood in Missouri about two miles south of the Iowa line and ten miles west of Pleasanton. It served some twenty pioneer families who began settling there about 1856 from Indiana and elsewhere. After the Civil War, 1866, many more came from an old Catholic settlement, St. Rose, the Dominican parish near Springfield, Kentucky, and Lebanon, Kentucky, east of Bardstown.

Some of those people who settled near St. Mary's Church in Harrison County, Missouri, were: Martin Jenkins and Ellen Devine from Gosport, Owen County, Indiana, 1856. Ellen was a native of County Tyrone, Ireland; Mathias Schiefelbusch from Germany by way of St. Louis, Missouri, and Burlington, Iowa. Those from Kentucky, east of the Bardstown Cathedral were Benjamin Hamilton and Mary E. Wheatly; John Flanagan and Anna Hamilton; James Hagan and Rebecca Montgomery; Frank O'Bryan who married Minnie Schiefelbusch; James Hagan who married Anna Schiefelbusch; Pius Higdon and Catherine Shercliff and his second wife after Catherine's death was Mary Ellen Hill. Others who lived there were Michael Daily, John Conroy and many others.

The area around St. Mary's, Andover, Missouri, was visited by such pioneer Missouri priests as Father Powers in 1856 and Father John J. Hogan, 1860 to 1868, who made missionary trips up north from St. Louis. This same Father J. J. Hogan was appointed the first Bishop of St. Joseph, Missouri, 1868 to 1880, and later the Bishop of Kansas City, Missouri, 1880 to 1913. St. Mary's was also served by Father J. J. Kennedy of Trenton, Missouri, from July, 1870, to December, 1881. Father Kennedy supervised the building of St. Mary's Church in 1872, that once stood on land donated by Mathias Schiefelbusch. After 1882 it was served by the Benedictine Fathers of the Abbey at Conception, Missouri.

Many descendants of those early Missouri Catholic families now live in Iowa and are members of St. Brendan's Parish, Leon.

Looking back one hundred years we see many of the early settlers with strong Faith. As an example the first twelve Catholic families who settled in Woodland Township prior to 1860 had not so much as seen a priest from 1856 to September, 1860. However, they did not wait for a priest to come. They did not give way to indifferentism or discouragement or say: The priest at Ottumwa is German, we are Irish, therefore we don't like the priest. No, they didn't say that. Seven families packed up and put forth an effort to practice their faith. They made a journey by ox team and wagon, some walked, as a caravan to Ottumwa, a distance of about eighty miles where eleven infants born during the previous four years were baptized September

16, 1860, by Father John Adam Kreckel, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Ottumwa, Iowa. That was the real date of the beginning of the Catholic Church in Decatur County. For them to make such a trip to Ottumwa by ox team, at least four days were required. There were no good roads or bridges in 1860, as we have them today, and an ox team walked very slowly.

A man must stand for something or he will fall for everything. They knew where they stood and they took their stand.

According to the baptismal register at St. Mary's, Ottumwa, the eleven infants were:

1. John Barrett of Richard Barrett and Julia Sullivan.
2. Ellen Barrett of the same above parents.
3. Johannah Owens and twin sister.
4. Mary Ann Owens of Thomas Owens and Ellen Barrett.
5. John Owens of same above parents.
6. Richard (Ricard) Barrett of John Barrett and Ellen Sullivan.
7. Mary Ann Barrett of same above parents.
8. Edward Mullin of Dennis Mullin and Margaret Houlihan.
9. Michael Griffin of Michael Griffin and Margaret Foley.
10. Robert William Grogan of William Grogan and Bridget Foley.
11. Johannah B. Grogan of the same above parents.

The sponsors from the settlement were Thomas Owens, Ellen Barrett, Bridget Daughton and Margaret Houlihan. Other sponsors, most likely from Ottumwa, were Peter Flood, Caudia Riegnolds, Claudina Riegnolds, Apalonia Hep, James Cullen, Thomas Neville and James Burke.

Again, the next year a second trip was made to Ottumwa for the baptism by Father Kreckel of the first adult converts, October 20, 1861. Samuel Wallace and his sister, Elizabeth Wallace, who later married Patrick Flynn, were baptized at that time. The sponsors were Maurice Daughton and Ellen Daughton.

Three weeks later, also at Ottumwa, on November 9, 1861, the above neophyte Samuel Wallace and Bridget Daughton were united in marriage in the presence of Father Kreckel. (Marriage book B, Ottumwa Court House)

One can see here the work of a good Catholic girl whose intended spouse was received into the Church before marriage. There was also sufficient elapse of time for instruction in Christian Doctrine and three weeks for the publication of the banns before the marriage. Samuel and Bridget were always good Catholics and good citizens of Ireland in Woodland Township and up north of Grand River and still later near Creston where they died, he in 1927, she in 1928. The present altar at St. Patrick's Church, Grand River, was given in their memory in 1929, by their children. The names of Samuel Wallace and Bridget Wallace are among the original founders of Dowling High School in Des Moines, Iowa.

Father John A. Kreckel

Father Kreckel, an apostle to Southern Iowa, was born at Rennerod, Germany, in the Diocese of Limburg, July 5, 1826. He was the son of John and Margaret (Groth) Kreckel, natives of Germany. His maternal grandfather was of Irish birth and parentage.

Father Kreckel came to the United States in 1842, settling in Lancaster, Pa. He attended St. Mary's College, Baltimore, and was ordained a Catholic priest November 17, 1853, and appointed pastor of Ottumwa. He proceeded by boat to Dubuque and from there by stage coach to Ottumwa arriving there February 11, 1854. At first he had charge of Catholics of Wapello, Polk, Marion, Warren, Appanoose, Jasper, Monroe, Wayne and Decatur Counties.

In February, 1854, when he came to Ottumwa he had charge of Des Moines, where there were, according to his obituary, only eight Catholic families and Major Cavenaugh then was a bachelor. Father Kreckel aided in the organization of nearly all the Catholic Church societies of this section and also church buildings, superintending the erection of the first church building in the Irish settlement west of Des Moines.

In 1860 to 1861, he built a new church, St. Mary's, Ottumwa, Iowa. It was the third church building erected on that location. The first was called St. Nicholas Church, built in 1849, by Father Jean Baptist Villars. The second was called St. Mary's, built in 1851, by Father Alexander Hattenberger, who converted St. Nicholas into the priest's house.

Father Kreckel established the Catholic Schools at Ottumwa and brought the Sisters of Humility of Mary there in 1877 to teach and in 1878 they also started the Mrs. Tally Hospital, later called St. Joseph Hospital.

"Father Kreckel experienced many changes during a long and useful life and greatly improved his opportunities for doing good. As a pioneer evangelist he had much to encounter and he labored diligently to perform the task which was set before him. Much was expected of him and it is conceded by all that he performed his part well." He died at 6:30 p. m., Sunday evening, June 18, 1899, as pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Ottumwa. See obituary Ottumwa Courier, June 19, 1899; also "History of St. Patrick's Church, Ottumwa, Iowa," by Father H. J. Hogan. See St. Mary's dedication, May 10, 1931, by Msgr. J. M. Walsh.

2. A Mission of Georgetown

In 1860, Father Timothy J. Clifford became missionary pastor at Georgetown (also called Stacyville in Monroe County), eight miles west of Albia. He most probably began visiting the families in the settlement of Ireland about 1862 or 1863. There are no records to be found at this writing when the first Mass was offered or when the first church was built at Ireland except in Father McMenomy's obituary it states that "Father McMenomy, 1865-1869, built a church at Leon." There are no records of Father Clifford's baptisms of Leon people at Georgetown until he recorded the baptism of John Wallace and his wife, Mary E. Monsen Wallace, baptized April 27, 1864.

However, his name is clearly established in the memory of the old timers around Leon as being one of the first priests to offer Mass in the log cabins of Ireland Settlement, Decatur County.

By acquisition of title to property, the church was began September 22, 1863, during the time of Father Clifford, when five families deeded ten acres of land where their farms joined, to the Right Rev. Clement Smyth, Bishop of Dubuque, and his successors in office to be used for a cemetery and church site in Section 19, Woodland Township. The first grave stone is for a seven-year-old boy, Bartholomew Mullin, son of Dennis and Margaret Mullin, who died October 9, 1862. On that stone is written:

Lonely boy, how brief thy stay,
Short and hasty was thy day.
Ending soon thy sojourn here,
Pain or grief no more to bear.

According to records at Leon Court House in Book 107 and 167, the five donors were Maurice Daughton, Patrick Grogan, William Grogan, Dennis Mullin, Patrick Mullin and their wives who also signed the deed.

Father Timothy J. Clifford

Father T. J. Clifford was born in County Kerry, Ireland, about 1831.

He drew the plans for the present church building at Georgetown, Iowa, and supervised the first period of building and quarrying the stone, 1860-1864. During this time Father Clifford served other Catholic settlements in southern Iowa. He also had charge of Saint Ambrose Church in Des Moines, Iowa, for five months, May to September, 1862, during the absence of Father J. F. Brazill. See Des Moines Daily State Register, May 8, 1862, and following editions for news items and invitations to hear special sermons about the Mass delivered Sunday evenings at St. Ambrose Church by Father Timothy J. Clifford.

It is interesting to note that when Bishop Clement Smyth of Dubuque came to lay a corner stone at the Georgetown Church, May 19, 1864, there was deposited a bottle hermetically sealed containing the following: a silver five-cent piece, a five-cent bill of fractional currency and a twenty-cent bill of paper money, a copy of The Albia Union of July 8, 1863, and a scroll in Latin saying: "During the feast of Pentecost, 1864, Pius Ninth, Pope happily ruling the Church; Abraham Lincoln President of the United States in North America; William M. Stone, Governor of the State of Iowa; The Most Reverend Clement Smyth, Bishop of Dubuque, places this first stone with solemn cermonies of prayer in the presence of a large gathering of people and horses." See History of Monroe County, Iowa, 1896, by Frank Hickenlooper, Albia, Iowa.

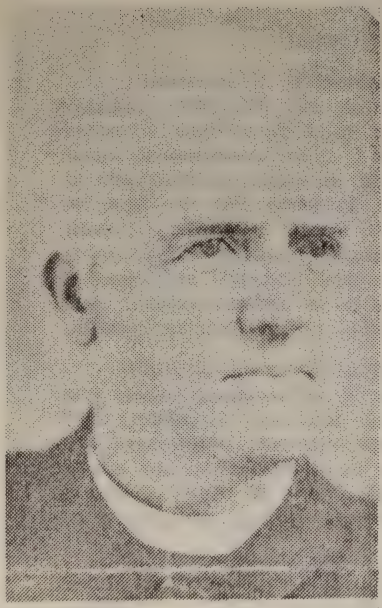
Father Clifford was pastor of Georgetown January 13, 1865, for the marriage there of his only brother, Patrick J. Clifford, to Mary Ann Meagher on that date. See Obituary of Mary Ann Clifford, December 25, 1910, Ottumwa Courier.

In the spring of 1865, Father Clifford was in the Diocese of Alton (Springfield), Illinois.

"Whilst pastor at Carrollton from 1865-1866, the Cholera broke fiercely out in the community. During this ordeal good Father Clifford edified all by his courage and heroism attending the sick and burying the dead. Finally, he himself became a victim of the dread disease, and was prepared for death. However, he recovered for the time being but died a few months afterward. He was buried at Alton R. I. P." (See Zurbonson, A. Clerical dead roll of Diocese of Alton, Ill. Quincy, Ill., 1918, P. 33, at Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill., Harry E. Pratt.) Consult Chancery Office, Springfield, Ill.

The Catholic Directory of 1868 says Father Timothy Clifford died February 2, 1867, at Carrollton, Ill.

Father Bernard P. McMenomy



Rev. B. P. McMenomy

Father Bernard P. McMenomy followed Father Clifford as pastor at Georgetown (Stacyville) about September, 1865, to October, 1869. He visited the Ireland settlement about every three months. He left behind a complete record of his baptisms. By examining dates and names in his baptismal register one can follow his journeys visiting families around Chariton, Newburn, Ireland in Decatur County, Grand River, several in Union County near Creston, Woodburn in Clarke County, then up to what is now Lacona and Bauer area. He was truly like an apostle of old.

On his last missionary visitation in September, 1869, before becoming pastor of St. Francis, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Father McMenomy baptized nine children of four families on different days near what is now called Maloy, Iowa. Then it was called Shay's settlement, also Delphi. These baptisms took place during the week of September 15, 1869. Apparently he was in that area for one week. Luke and Dennis Conwell of Grand River relate that their father, Edward Conwell, of Grand River, accompanied the first priest who visited Maloy, Ringgold County, and introduced him to the people. This would seem to be a fact because according to the baptismal register at Georgetown, Edward Conwell did act as sponsor for Edward Luke Shay, baptized at Maloy during that week of September 15, 1869.

While Father McMenomy was pastor at Georgetown, 1865 to 1869, a period of four and one-half years, he was assisted at times by Fathers Louis Cornelis, John V. Foley and Hugh P. Malone, who also baptized children of Ireland.

During the pastorate of Father McMenomy there were recorded the following twenty-two:

Catherine Daughton
Julia Wallace
Catherine Flynn
Dennis E. Griffin
Richard (Ricard) Barrett
Two Trembley Children
Anna E. Mullin
Mary Dillon
Emma Dillon
Richard Owens
Bridget Grogan
Ann Eliz. Conwell
John M. Mullin
Elizabeth Hannah Dillon
Michael Sam. Mullin
Francis H. McGovern
Elizabeth Daughton
Edward Owens
Elizabeth A. Grogan
Johanna Stack
James Wallace

OBITUARY

Father Bernard P. McMenomy

Obituary December 31, 1892, Non-Pareil

"Bernard P. McMenomy was born in County Donegal in Ireland in August, 1830. He was educated at St. Columb's College, Londonderry, and came to America in 1849 where he was taken under Archbishop Kenrick in Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained there in 1854, and was put in charge of a parish in northern Missouri for four years. During that time he laid out the town of Maryville. From there he went to Edina (Knox County), Missouri where he spent seven and one-half years. From Edina he went to Georgetown (Monroe County), Iowa, where he was up until 1869. During this time he built churches at Melrose, Chariton, Woodburn, Leon and a large church at Georgetown. Besides that he was interested in the building of many other churches along the C. B. & Q. Railroad.

In 1869 he came to Council Bluffs as the first priest to reside in the city and as pastor of St. Francis parish which then numbered about 200 souls. The number of members at the time of his death was around 2,000. He built the present St. Francis Xavier Church in 1878 to replace the log church which had been in use and served by the Diocese of Omaha before his arrival. He brought the B. V. M. Sisters to Council Bluffs to begin St. Francis Academy for girls, and he also started St. Joseph's parochial school for boys.

He died on December 31, 1892. He was a priest of the Diocese of Davenport and the dean of this section of the diocese. He is called "Very Reverend."

According to the baptismal register at St. Francis of Council Bluffs, his first baptism there was in November, 1869. His last baptism was in October, 1892.

As first pastor to reside in Council Bluffs (before his time priests came from Omaha to say Mass at the log cabin church in Council Bluffs) Father McMenomy was undoubtedly the first priest "to give regular service to Catholics of Glenwood, Pacific Junction, Plumer Settlement, in Mills County, and Neola and Honey Creek in Pottawattamie County, and Shelby in Shelby County. He attended to the spiritual needs of the scattered Catholics in these territories for many years going through many hardships to do so. The Catholics of Neola are indebted to him, not only for the wonderful service which he rendered, but for their first church built under his supervision. He was a very capable, hard-working man, hence he was well fitted for the pastorate of such a large parish." See memorial anniversary, Neola, Iowa, Parish.

St. Patrick's Church, Ireland, 1866-1902

Artist's drawing from eyewitness description. St. Patrick's Church at Ireland, front part built during time of Father McMenomy. The back part, which made the church T-shaped, was added during the 1880's. It was brought down in October, 1902, to make way for a new one called St. Mary's Church.

The next priest at Georgetown in Monroe County was Father Bernard A. Cannon who had been at St. Ambrose in Des Moines with Father Brazill at various times from March 8, 1864, to January 2, 1870.

Father Cannon came to the Leon area from Georgetown regularly, 1870 to 1873. His baptisms at Ireland according to register at Georgetown were:

Catherine Grogan of Thomas	Ann Dillon
C. W. Trembly	Jonas Albert Mullin of Patrick
Catherine Mullin of Dennis	Mary Ann Mullin

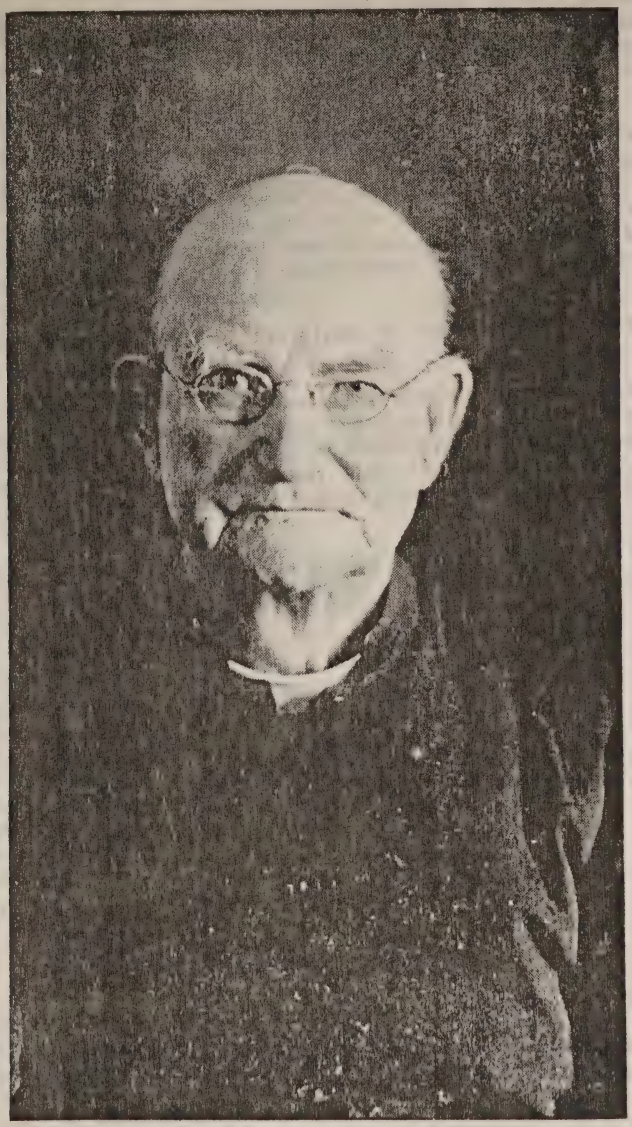
In the Edward Conwell Bible, now owned by Mrs. James McGreevy of Grand River, there is written: "B. A. Cannon R. C. Priest married Edward Conwell and Julia Daughton at the Woodland Church 19 January 1870."

Father Bernard A. Cannon

Father Cannon was born in Ireland in 1832 and came to America as a small boy with his parents and settled in Phildelphia where he received his early education. Later he attended St. Frances Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was ordained a priest by Bishop Clement Smyth at Dubuque in 1863 (1862). For twenty years, 1862-1882, he worked with zeal and piety in

missionary settlements in the state of Iowa when Iowa was not the state it is today.

In 1882 he was appointed first resident chaplain and member of the faculty of St. Francis Convent, Orphanage and Novitiate, Dubuque, Iowa. He died December 23, 1893, and was buried from the chapel of St. Francis Convent, Dubuque, Iowa, in the cemetery adjoining the orphanage. See The Herald, Dubuque, Iowa, December 24, 1893, Page 5.



Father John S. Baumann

Patrick Henry O'Grady of Grand River was baptized August 27, 1870, by Rev. Hugh Malone, according to the register at Georgetown.

These missionary journeys by sacrificing priests during the 1860's and early 1870's were made entirely by horse and pack or sometimes by foot. There were no graded roads or good bridges over swampy places as we have them today. One cannot imagine the difficulty of keeping clean linen and a suit of clothes while away from home two or three weeks in dust, heat, rain and cold. One consoling fact for them was they didn't know anything else.

The year 1872 was one of great progress that brought forth a wonderful improvement. The first train of the Chariton branch of the Burlington and Missouri Railroad ran to Garden Grove January 10, 1872. It was soon extended and the first train entered Leon August 18, 1872, where the track ended for seven years.

In 1879, it was extended to Lamoni, Iowa. In 1880-1881 it began running into Missouri and to Mount Ayr. When the trains began coming to Leon in 1872, the men of Ireland took turns going ten miles in a wagon to get the the Georgetown or Bauer priest when he arrived on the train from Chariton, hence they were able to have Mass about once a month according to an attempted schedule. On these occasions the priest would be a guest of one of the Catholic families for two or three days.

The Georgetown priest would catch the train a couple of miles south of Georgetown at a crossroad called Tyrone.

The year 1873 saw another step forward and westward. The Bishop at Dubuque, the Most Reverend John Hennessy, appointed Father John S. Baumann first resident pastor at the County Church parish of St. Joseph's, Bauer, Iowa, fifteen miles north of Chariton, with the Leon area as one of his missions. Father Baumann also visited and baptized two infants at Maloy April 1, 1873.

During his two and one-half years as pastor of Bauer, March, 1873, to December, 1875, he baptized twenty-one children of the Leon area according to the register at Bauer. They were:

Mary Caroline Sullivan
Mary Theresa Flynn
Three Brennan Children
Michael Sullivan
Elizabeth Wallace
Robert Dennis Grogan
Patrick Mullin
John Peters
James Trembly
Francis Kritz
Joseph Martin
Elizabeth Owens
Anna Catherine Peters
Helen (Ella) Grogan
James Flynn
Helen Catherine Mullin
Patrick Sullivan
John F. Ogden
Albert Kritz

Father John S. Baumann

Father John Baumann was born at Columbus, Ohio, February 15, 1846, attending St. Francis Seminary for eight years in Wisconsin where he was ordained a priest December 20, 1871, at Milwaukee by Most Rev. John Martin Henni for the Diocese of Dubuque. During 1872 he was assistant at Waterloo and later at Council Bluffs, becoming pastor at Bauer in March, 1873. He became pastor of Worthington, Iowa, in November, 1875. He was

transferred to Loras (St. Joseph's) College in 1880 and later became pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Dubuque, where he built the present large and beautiful church of the Sacred Heart in 1887.

He retired from parish work in 1905 to become chaplain of St. Francis Convent, the Mother house of Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family, Dubuque, Iowa, where he died August 7, 1929, age 83 years, six months. He was a Dioceaon Consultor.

Father S. F. Wieland

The next priest at Bauer, Iowa, to do missionary work southeast of Leon, December, 1875, to August, 1878, was Father Sebastian Fabian Wieland. However, he remained at Bauer until February, 1884.

Some of the Leon baptisms of this good priest are:

Mary M. Peters	Mary Gertrude Mahoney
Rebecca M. Trembly	Frank Joseph Peters
Catherine Helen Grogan	Lewis Henry Logue
William Daughton	Dennis Edward Mullin
Catherine Ogden	Anna Saphia Kritz

Father Wieldand, son of George A. Wieland and Bridget Strabala, born October 1, 1842, at Dungannon, Ohio, was ordained a priest for Diocese of Dubuque, February 2, 1869. Father Wieland was stationed at Lyons, Iowa, July 12, 1870. He was at Bauer, Iowa, 1875 to 1884. Later he was at St. James Church, St. Paul, Iowa. In 1903 he was at Riverside, Iowa. The 1909 directory says Father S. F. Wieland was at Exira, Iowa. From Exira he went to Lacona where his health failed about 1913. The 1914 directory states: "S. F. Wieland (D. M.) absent on sick leave." At this time he was 72 years old.

Upon retiring he went to Emporia, Kansas, to live with a brother in the old Wieland home at 28 Union Street, where he died, age 81, March 27, 1924, and is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Emporia, Kansas. The officiating priest was Father Celestine Matz O. F. M. The Wieland home there is now the convent for the teaching sisters.

While pastor of Bauer, Iowa, Father Wieland gave instructions to and baptized May 28, 1882, the adult convert, Luella May Hook Harkin, of Rosemount Mission, the grandmother of Reverend Edward J. Harkin.

Father Bernard J. Henry

It seems that in the Autumn of 1878, Father B. J. Henry attempted to establish a residence at Chariton but the time had not yet come for such a step of progress. After he was transferred Father Edmund Hayes of Georgetown took care of Chariton and Leon.

The 1879 Catholic Directory says that Reverend Bernard Henry was listed as being at Chariton, Lucas County, Iowa. The Leon Court House marriage book records that Daniel Hurley was married to Elizabeth A. McClure at the Catholic Church, Irishtown, May 18, 1879, in the presence of Reverend B. J. Henry.

4. Back To Georgetown

Every period of history has its own exciting events played to its own musical tempo. Verily, great and exciting things were happening in and around Leon in 1880. It was the beginning of the golden age which has quietly passed away. Progress and excitement was everywhere. Read the old files of the Leon weekly newspapers printed during that time and you'll get the feeling.

Population of Decatur County had increased to 12,018 by 1870 and to 15,536 in 1880. New farm machinery was being invented and improved. Cyrus H. McCormick was talked of as a hero. Leon could brag even before 1880 of having the Hildreth Opera House for lectures, debates, plays, musicals, recitals and other cultural events.

The best luxurious hotels and restaurants were at Leon. Every night a fast train left for Chariton with connections to Chicago for also the shipping of cattle and hogs to market. The ox team was too slow. Horses were becoming more numerous even among common people.

Schools had been established in all rural districts by 1880. To attend Leon High School was like going to college. Leon High School started in 1871. The Episcopal Church of Iowa could boast of St. John's Academy at Garden Grove for gentlemen and ladies. It had a four-year course preparatory for college and university. Forty-four attended during the school year, 1882 to 1883.

Log cabins were no longer fit to live in. Frame houses were being built even down in Ireland as The Leon Journal reported: "July 1883, Michael Griffin of Woodland Township is building a fine residence; September 27, 1883, Maurice Daughton of Woodland Township is building a new house." Also a new railroad, The Des Moines, Osceola Railroad had arrived at Decatur City and for a time seemed puzzled which way to turn, right or left. Finally September 25, 1883, the first train of that road came into Leon. Then Leon had two railroads and soon sixteen daily trains were passing through town.

In 1879-1880, hundreds of itinerant railroad workers and some mules and horses were working south of Leon building the railroad tracks and bridges on to St. Joseph, Missouri. The Leon Journal reported another fight at Davis City on a Saturday night. "Mc....., a huge Irishman, got drunk and picked a fight with a negro on Saturday night. It took seven men and the Marshal to hold him down till they could get him in the jail. Monday morning "Mc" was bailed out and ready for work on the railroad."

Then there was Ann Elizabeth Young, the fifteenth wife of Brigham Young, who had escaped from Salt Lake City and was touring the country giving lectures "that might arouse the people of the United States to the relief of her suffering sisters yet enslaved by polygomy in Utah." She presented her plain simple story to nearly three hundred people at the Hildreth Opera House, Leon, Iowa, Friday, April 23, 1880. See Leon Journal, April 29, 1880.

Oh, yes, and Father Edmund Hayes of the true Church was scheduled to give a lecture at the Opera House in Leon. It seems that the "Irish Question" her just and noble cause against England, loomed high on the horizon. "It is a fixed fact that there will be an entertainment for the benefit of the poor of Ireland at the Hildreth Opera House April 28th. Rev. Father Hayes will lecture on "The Manifest Destiny of Ireland and the Political Economy of the Nation." See Leon Journal April 8, 1880.

"Father Hayes was in Leon Saturday and Monday and we suppose held services in Woodland on Sunday. St. Patrick's Day will be observed in Chariton." Leon Journal February 3, 1881.

"The exercises at Chariton St. Patrick's night were interesting and attended by a big crowd. The horse was drawn by Miss Bridget Sullivan, $900.00 worth of tickets having been sold. E. M. Thorpe was voted the most popular lawyer. Eli Manning the most popular merchant and Maggie Ragan the most popular lady. The total receipts of the evening were $1,350.00, which will be sent to Ireland." Leon Journal, March 24, 1881.

The Diocese of Dubuque, Iowa, was divided into two equal parts May 8, 1881. Davenport Diocese included the south one-half of Iowa with Bishop John McMullen its first Bishop. He died in 1883, and was followed by the Right Reverend Henry Cosgrove, September 14, 1884, who died December 22, 1906. After him Most Reverend James Davis was Bishop from November 30, 1904, to establishment of Des Moines Diocese in 1911.

Father Edmund Hayes

Father Hayes was transferred from Georgetown about 1884, to Malvern, Iowa, and Randolph Mission. Later he established residence (1888) at Imogene, Iowa, and was pastor there for thirty-eight years. He died in St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha, February 8, 1928, having retired in April, 1926. He was born in Ireland in 1852; was educated at St. Mary's College, San Francisco, California, and the Grand Seminary, Montreal, Canada. He taught at Loras (St. Joseph's) College at Dubuque, before becoming pastor at Georgetown and was reported to be one of the State's wealthiest men. He estab-

Marble Altars of Catholic Church, Imogene, Iowa

lished the Catholic Community of Imogene and built there one of the most solid and beautiful Churches in the state of Iowa with stained glass windows and marble altars and statues imported from Italy. The first altars were sunk while aboard ship in the ocean at the beginning of World War I. The second shipment of altars came over after the war.

Father Hayes made several world wide tours through Europe, Holy Land and the Orient. He was a thinker, an orator of great ability, one of the wittiest and quickest in repartee.

He is buried at the Catholic Cemetery, Imogene, Iowa, with his sister, Ellen, and brother, William, of Ely, Nevada. See Obituary, Shenandoah, The Evening Sentinel, February 9, 1928.

5. Father John Charles White
Father Patrick J. Feeley
Father William M. Williams
Father B. J. Sheridan

Late in 1882, Chariton had grown up and was worthy of a resident priest, receiving the Rev. J. C. White, who had been ordained in October of that year.

Father White visited Leon several times in 1882. However, Father Feeley began living at Mount Ayr about this time and took care of Leon. He could ride the newly constructed Leon, Mount Ayr and Southern Railroad between Mount Ayr via Kellerton and Davis City up to Leon. It also ran to Grant City, Missouri, from Mount Ayr via Delphos. He also took care of Grand River which had heretofore been served by the Benedictine Fathers of Creston, Iowa, 1874 to 1882.

Father Feeley built the Catholic Church that once was at Kellerton: "The Catholic Church was built in 1883. It is situated in the southwest corner of the village and cost $600.00. Services are held monthly by Father Williams, of Mount Ayr. Preceding him was Father Feeley who built the Church. About fifteen Catholic families worship here." See page 456, Biographical and Historical Record, Ringgold and Decatur Counties, Iowa, The Lewis Publishing Company, 113 Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois, 1887. Town of Kellerton.

Another important quotation about Father Feeley, which concerns Bishop Cosgrove's visit to Decatur County, perhaps the first Episcopal Visitation to Ireland, is here quoted from The Leon Journal, Thursday, June 11, 1885.

"At St. Patrick's Church, Woodland Township, last Thursday at regular sacrament there were forty-nine persons confirmed. Bishop Cosgrove of Davenport and Father Lyons of Creston and Father Feeley of Mount Ayr conducted the services. There was a very large congregation in attendance."

Margaret and Nan Barrett were among those confirmed June 4, 1885, at the Ireland Church.

Margaret Barrett Mullin and Nancy (Nan) Barrett

During the early part of 1887, it seems that a Father B. J. Sheridan of Chariton had charge of Leon and Grand River because there are four baptismal records at Chariton, January-March, of Decatur County.

Father Patrick J. Feeley

Father Feeley was born in County Caven, Ireland, in 1844, and came to America as a boy. He attended St. Louis Seminary and was a classmate of Msgr. Flavin, being ordained at Des Moines, July 20, 1870, in the old St. Ambrose Church, Sixth and Locust, by the Bishop of Omaha, Rt. Reverend James O'Gorman, O. C. S. O., because Bishop Hennessy of Dubuque was attending the Council of the Vatican at Rome.

On that happy occasion, the first of its kind in Des Moines, a total of seven young men, July 17 to July 20, 1870, were ordained to the priesthood. Some of them also received minor orders during those four days.

The seven ordained were Patrick Clabby, James McDermott, Francis Hartin, William Dunn, Michael Flavin, Patrick Feeley and a Rev. McNulty. See Daily Iowa State Register, July 19, 1870, Page 4.

Father Feeley spent his life in various Iowa parishes meeting the difficulties of pioneer days with a splendid physique and generous heart. He was well beloved by all of his people.

He died, age 75, March 27, 1919, at Mercy Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa, from injuries when hit by an auto the previous October at West Seventeenth and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. He is buried in the priests plot, St. Ambrose cemetery. See Western World, October 24, 1918, Page 5; April 3, 1919.

6. Mission of Maloy, Iowa

In April, 1887, the people around Maloy (Shay's Settlement) received Father Timothy J. Mullen, first resident pastor there, appointed pastor by Bishop Henry Cosgrove of Davenport. Father Mullen had been assistant to Father Brazill at St. Ambrose, Des Moines, for several years. His first baptism at Maloy was in April 1887, Teresa O'Hern.

The first Church building was at the present Maloy Catholic Cemetery, one mile east and a quarter mile north of Maloy. It was built in 1874 by Father Placidus McKeever, O. S. B., stationed at Creston. This old Country Church was moved in 1888, by Father Mullen into Maloy where he resided. Later a new church was erected in Maloy by Father J. J. Condon, in 1903, and the old one was enlarged and converted into a parish hall. Both buildings and rectory burned to the ground in 1931, after which a new church and rectory were erected in 1931-1932, under supervision of Father Maurice Culhane, the present pastor of Maloy.

The village of Maloy was fiirst called Delphi. However, since there was also a Delphos, six miles east, much confusion resulted at the post office. Hence a new name was requested. While discussing the situation an old settler by the name of Maloy was suggested. They all agreed to use his name and so Delphi became Maloy, Iowa. This took place before 1880. (Related to me by Father M. Culhane.)

Father Mullen, the first resident pastor at Maloy, also served the missions of Grand River, Mount Ayr, Kellerton and Ireland, southeast of Leon.

Some of his baptisms of Leon and Grand River people in the register at Maloy are:

Margaret E. O'Grady
Agnes E. Conwell
James Barry
Henry Edward Backus
Julia Currin
Mary Ann Kelley
Joseph Hurley
John Hurley
Daniel Hurley
Mary Hurley
Elizabeth Ann McClure Hurley
Mary Barrett
Mida Bradley
Stella Mary Treanor
Sarah Comerford
Elizabeth Hurley

Mary Olivia Mullin
Michael Edward McGraw
Alice Grogan
Joseph F. Daughton
Charles S. Kelley
Agnes Barry
John Edward Barrett
Margaret Grogan
John Patrick Mullin
Joseph William Grogan
Marie Myrtle McGraw
Dennis Owens
Cecilia Mahoney

In October, 1888, Bishop Henry Cosgrove of Davenport administered Confirmation at the Catholic Church in Kelierton to seventy-eight people of Maloy, Grand River and Kellerton. The ones around Grand River were:

Patrick Henry Ward
Thomas Arthur Quilty
Michael O'Grady
Samuel Dunsmore Wallace
Stephen Dominic Conwell
James Wallace
James Maurice Wallace
Maurice Edward Conwell
Patrick Henry O'Grady
Susan Ann Quilty
Catherine Ward
Catherine Helen Grogan
Margaret E. Conwell
Mary Ann O'Grady
Elizabeth Wallace
Julia May Conwell

Father T. J. Mullen was transferred in August, 1891, to Missouri Valley and later to Adair, Iowa. He died May 7, 1923, age 72, at Mercy Hospital. He was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, in 1851, and came to Plainville, Connecticut, when eight years old and was educated for the priesthood in Montreal, Canada. He is buried in the priest plot in St. Ambrose Cemetery. See Obituary, Adair County Newspaper, March 16, 1923, Page 1.

Father Terence J. A. Molloy

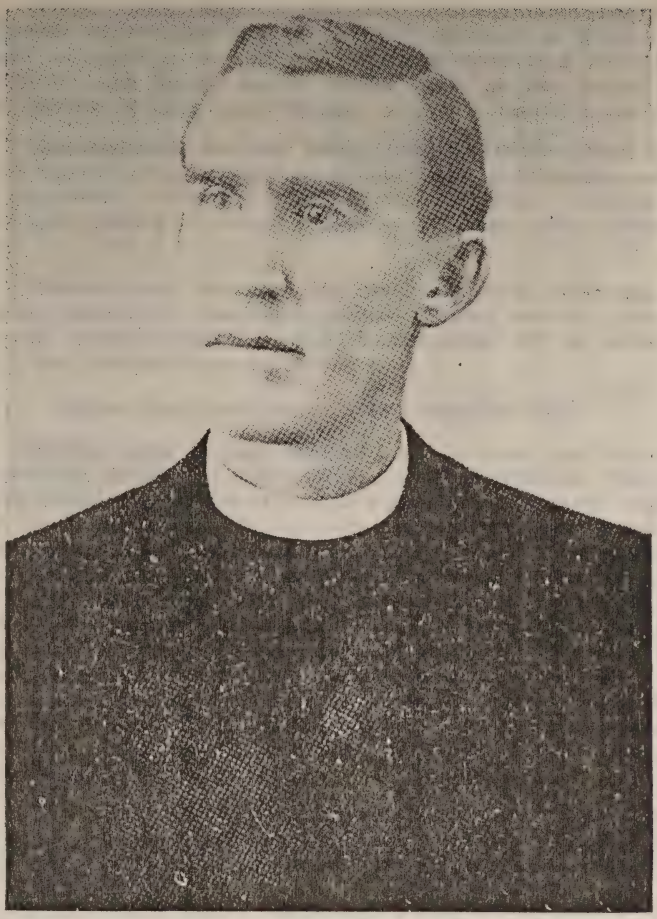
Father Molloy, August, 1891, to January, 1892, was born June 15, 1857, in Kings County (County Offaly), Ireland, son of Arthur and Mary E. Molloy. He gave his life performing a work of charity at the Ireland Cemetery.

In January, 1892, he had a funeral at the Ireland Church, which was called St. Patrick's Church. After Mass the people gathered in the cemetery for the burial. The weather had suddenly changed. It was raining and becoming cold. Attending the funeral was a lady with a small baby unprepared for such sudden change of cold wet weather.

Father Molloy gave his rain coat to the young mother to keep the infant dry. When the priest returned home to Maloy that night he was chilled to the bone and died three days later with pneumonia, January 16, 1892. He is buried at the Maloy Catholic Cemetery, southwest of Mount Ayr.

Father Henry V. Malone

Father Malone, stationed at Maloy, took care of Grand River and Leon missions from March, 1892, to May, 1894. He was born near Winterset, Iowa, in 1862, and served fifty-three years in the Priesthood of the Catholic Church. Father Malone died while retired at Dowling High in Des Moines, June 5, 1944.



Monsignor James William Bulger

Father Bulger was born at Riverside, Iowa, ordained a priest in St. Louis Cathedral, St. Louis, Missouri, May 19, 1894. In July, 1894 he was sent to Maloy, Iowa. Later, February 16, 1896, he was made pastor at Shenandoah, Ottumwa and Saint Anthony's Church in Davenport, Iowa, where he was made a Monsignor in 1939 and died December 12 1944, age 85.

While Father Bulger was pastor of the Grand River mission one of the old school buildings of Grand River was purchased in October, 1895, and moved two blocks east to be converted into the first Catholic Church building of Grand River. It was not completed and dedicated until June 14, 1896, by Father John A. Cook who took Father Bulger's place in February, 1896. This building was later sold and converted into a dwelling that still stands in Grand River.

Father John A. Cook, 1896-1898

Father Cook, like several priests before him, made use of the newspaper to announce his services.

"Father Cook, formerly stationed at Shenandoah, has made an exchange of district with Father Bulger, formerly stationed at Maloy. Father Cook will preach regularly at the Catholic Church in Woodland Township on the fourth Sunday of each month and at Grand River on the second Sunday and will hold services in Leon each Tuesday after the fourth Sunday.

"Arrangements are now being made for Father Cook to deliver in Leon at the Opera House a series of lectures on the following subjects: "Why am I a Catholic?"; "The lost confession"; "Is there a Church of Christ?"; "If there is a Church of Christ, which is it?". See Leon Reporter February 27, 1896.

"Father Cook delivered his lecture entitled "Why am I a Catholic" to a large audience at the Court House Tuesday evening, June 9. It was well received. Another lecture by the same speaker will be given in the near future." See Journal June 11, 1896, Page 7.

Father Cook was rugged! The following item:

"Father John A. Cook of Maloy was in town the first of the week holding services Monday at the residence of Peter Bradley. The Reverend Father is still crippled from the effects of a stroke of lightning received the 23rd of July. He moves with difficulty and is compelled to walk with a cane. Father Cook's escape from death seem miraculous. The bolt of lightning which struck him first made two holes in the rim of a straw hat he wore, burned his neck and breast badly and after melting the watch chain and a watch charm, passed through his watch case, making a small hole. The fiery bolt passed down his left limb and passed through his left foot. In its passage boring a hole in the foot large enough in which to place a finger and then passed through the shoe presumably into the earth. Father Cook was rendered unconscious for a period of several hours and only his strong constitution saved him." End of newspaper item word for word, Leon Journal, November 26, 1896, Page 7.

Father Cook closed the books at Maloy in July, 1898, and was succeeded by Father Thomas F. Loftus. However Father Cook came back to Leon February 11, 1899, to conduct the funeral of Maggie Atkins.

Father Cook died December 3, 1932, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, age 78 years. He was pastor also during his life at Westphalia, Shenandoah, St. Mary's, Iowa, Hamberg, St. Mary's Hospital, Keokuk, and Bayard, Iowa, before retiring. He was ordained a priest in 1884, at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md.

Father Thomas F. Loftus

Father T. F. Loftus was pastor at Maloy with missions at Leon and Grand River, August, 1898, to July, 1899.

A. Population of Decatur County:

1875 — 13,249
1880 — 15,536
1900 — 18,115
1905 — 16,969
1950 — 12,604

B. Population of Woodland Township:

1900 — 886
1905 — 746
1950 — 371

Population decreased 515 in past fifty years.

C. There were 596 horses in Woodland Township in 1902.

D. Leon Journal, December 11, 1902: "Jimmie Grogan got stuck in the corn field and had to unload his corn and take the wagon to pieces to get out of the mud."

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Chapter V

NEW CHURCH, SAINT MARY'S

Father J. J. Condon became pastor of Maloy and missions about August of 1899. He served Leon until about May or June, 1903. Later Father Richard J. Aid from Chariton seved Leon mission, 1904 to 1906. Father Condon continued to take care of Grand River until 1907. He died a priest of Diocese of Des Moines November 29, 1946, as Chaplain at St. Joseph's Sanitorium, Del Norte, Colorado.

The Leon Journal in a Bracewell news of Thursday, October 23, 1902, has the following which was the beginning of the most interesting episode of the history of the Catholic Church in Woodland Township. It was the fight to build the new church at Ireland: "A new Catholic Church will be built at the site of the old one." See Leon Journal, October 23, 1902.

This old Church was called "St. Patrick's" in the newspaper account of Confirmation administered by Bishop Cosgrove in June, 1885. It was also called St. Patrick's Church in the marriage records at the Leon Court House, 1876 and later. (The Leon Court House and all records burned in March, 1874.)

In Father McMenomy's obituary it was stated that he built a church at Leon, which would be the one at Ireland, sometime between 1865 and September, 1869. Lewis Bright told me that he was born October 7, 1862, and he started at Ireland school, one mile and a half south of the Catholic Church the first year that Ireland School was opened which was in September, 1870. He said: "The Catholic Church was already built and," as he remembered it at that time, "It seemed to be old in 1870. It was made of rough boards up and down and crack stripped. It was just one small room."

Kathryn Daughton Owens told me when she was confirmed in June, 1885, she remembered it as one room, but when she married in 1889, the addition to the one room had been built onto it to form a "T" shape building. Finally in October, 1902, it was torn down to make way for the new one — St. Mary's.

"The new Catholic Church is going up rapidly." See Leon Journal, December 18, 1902.

When it was proposed to build a new church in 1902, several persons of authority and wisdom suggested the proper place to build was at Leon because many Catholics were migrating to other parts of the county and Leon, being the county seat, would be more conveniently located. The old Catholic pioneers were fast leaving this world and their land in many cases would soon be sold and farms would soon become larger — 200 acres in place of 40 and 80. Ireland as a Catholic settlement was breaking up. Their children were moving to other places where there were better opportunities. Woodland could not hold them.

The authorities could see the many changes that were to come during the next fifty years. Those fifty years have passed and those changes have come about. Catholics now live in all parts of the county and many new families have moved into the county. Leon is centrally located with improved roads leading to it. It is interesting to note that the total (Catholic and non-Catholic) population of Woodland Township in 1900 was 886, but in the census of 1950, it had fallen to 371.

The cold facts of truth are hard. Time makes a nostalgic story and we should be kind to those who once lived and tried hard to preserve Ireland. They were of another age that has quietly passed away. There were those good praise-worthy people in 1902, faithful to the Church who loved the sacred ground of Ireland and who proceeded to build a new church "at the site of the old one."

It was nearly built by December, 1902, but it stood at a standstill for over two years before completion. During those two years, Mass was offered in the homes.

"Quite a number of Catholics attended Mass at T. J. Griffin's last Wednesday." See Leon Journal, June 2, 1904.

"Henry Turpen of Davis City finished plastering the Catholic Church Saturday morning." Leon Journal, October 27, 1904.

"Quite a number of Catholics attended Mass at John Barry's Friday." See Leon Journal, January 12, 1905.

"The Catholic Church is finished and will be dedicated this month." See Leon Journal, June 8, 1905.

New Church Dedicated

JULY 30, 1905

"The official dedication of the new Catholic Church at Woodland was held last Sunday with appropriate services. The dedication being in charge of the Rev. Father Richard Aid of Chariton who brought his choir of young ladies from that city to furnish the music for the occasion. The church, which is one of the neatest little edifices in the state, was nicely decorated with flowers for the occasion. Services began at 9 o'clock followed by High Mass and an excellent sermon by Father Aid. Before delivering the sermon he took pleasure in thanking Messers. A. M. Bryson and S. J. Grogan for their faithful work in raising the funds to bring the church to completion. There was a vast congregation present, over 500 being there to witness the dedication. The new church is 30 by 40 feet and is an up-to-date structure. The interior being

beautifully finished in stained oak. The Catholics may well feel proud of their contributions which enabled them to build and furnish the new church." See Reporter, August 3, 1905.

During the pastorate of Father E. F. Gaule (1907-1909) the Diocese of Davenport published the "Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of Collection for Support of Ecclesiastical Students of Diocese of Davenport — 1908-1909." The solicitors for Catholic Church at Ireland were C. Bryson, Margaret Grogan and Agnes Barry. They turned in $30.00 collected from 26 persons of St. Mary's Church of Woodland Township who are named on page 20 of that report.

Father James P. McGillin and S. J. Grogan

Mrs. W. Record	.50
Mary Flynn	.50
Mrs. Frank Hickman	.50
Mrs. H. Frost	.50
Margaret Grogan	.35

Father James P. McGillin of Chariton took care of Ireland mission from June, 1909, to November, 1915. He published an interesting Easter offering report of April 23, 1911, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Leon, Iowa. The total offering was $13.45.

Mr. and Mrs. John Barry	1.45
Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Barrett	1.25
Dennis Daughton	1.00
M. Griffin	1.00
P. F. Bradley	1.00
D. E. Griffin	1.00
Mrs. Mary Macy	1.00
Mrs. J. Massey	.65
Alice Flynn	.50
Nellie Mullins	.50
Mrs. M. Griffin	.50
Maggie Atkins	.25
Nan Barrett	.25
Mrs. P. Flynn	25
Mrs. John Grogan	.25
Mrs. Emma Grogan	.25

I sincerely thank you all,
Father McGillin, Pastor.

On August 12, 1911, Saint Pius X, Pope, Vicar of Jesus Christ and 258th successor of Saint Peter, established the Diocese of Des Moines, consisting of the west one-half of the Davenport Diocese, or the southwest one-fourth of Iowa.

The Rev. James P. McGillin

Father McGillin became pastor at Shenandoah in November, 1915, and died there January 22, 1921. He was buried at Holbrook, Iowa, being born near there in 1868, and studied at St. Ambrose College, Mt. St. Mary's, Emmetsburg, Maryland, and finished his course at Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, in June, 1901. He was ordained by Bishop Cosgrove. He later served as pastor of Marsu, Long Grove, Red Oak, Chariton and Shenandoah.

"Father McGillin was a devoted tireless and self-sacrificing priest and a real spiritual father to all entrusted to his care. He was revered by fellow

clergy and idolized by his parishioners as the years of his priestly sojourn went on. Although he laid down the burden at the noonday of life he goes before the Master with hands filled with the golden grain of good and worthy labor which, was patient and constant, together with the dues of Divine Grace which have been brought to maturity ripe for the harvest." See Obituary by Rev. J. M. Hanson, Western World, January 27, 1921.

St. Mary's Church, Ireland — 1904-1919

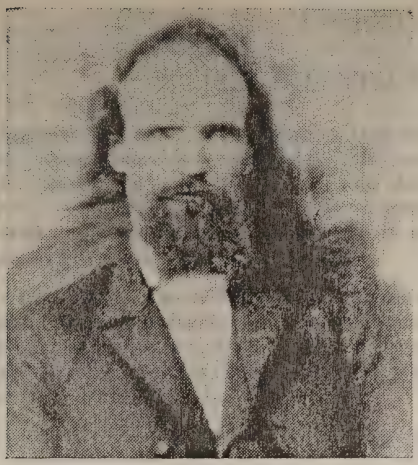
During the latter part of 1915, and for a while in 1916, Father John P. Burkhiser had residence at Mount Ayr with Grand River and Leon as his missions. In May, 1916, Father Felix Byrnes and Father Burkhiser conducted a mission at the Leon Opera House.

During the June priests retreat, 1916, Bishop Dowling informed Father J. C. Maher that he was appointing him pastor of Mount Ayr and Leon. In August, 1916, the people of Ireland and Leon voted unanimously with Father Maher to build a new church in Leon and the priest to reside in Leon. Father Maher lived with several families in Ireland until Spring, 1917, when he began living in the Marion Woodard residence, the present Rectory, 1003 North Church Street, Leon, Iowa. This Leon property was deeded to St. Brendan's Church, Inc., October 2, 1916. The Articles of Incorporation for St. Brendan's Catholic Church, Leon, were filed at the Recorder's office, Decatur County Court House, September 22, 1916. Mass was offered in Saint Mary's Church until about June, 1918.

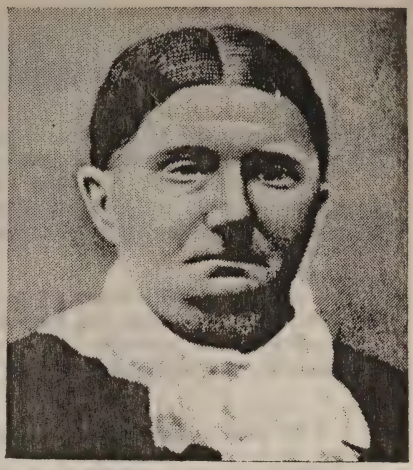
Ireland Cemetery — 1954

The Griffin Children

Michael Mary Cain Ella Gammon Edward D.
Daniel Hannah Daughton Patrick Timothy



Thomas Dillon



Catherine Hoover Dillon

Nana Dillon Young
Hannah Dillion Frost Emma Dillon Grogan
Mary Dillon Record

Chapter VI

SAINT BRENDAN'S CHURCH

January 2, 1917, the organization meeting was held at St. Brendan's Rectory, Leon, Iowa. It was voted and agreed upon that St. Brendan's Corporation should accept the house and property, 100 feet by 198 feet, for $3,000.00, purchased from Marion Woodard and Jessie, his wife. Also it was voted that $2,000.00 or $2,500.00 if necessary be expended to repair the dwelling. (Parish Corporation Book)

Wednesday, March 28, 1917, it was voted and agreed that a church be erected on the property located in Leon not to exceed the sum of $15,000.00. Bishop Austin Dowling, Pres.; Rev. Flavin, Vice-Pres.; Father J. C. Maher, Sec. and Treas.; Dennis Daughton and Edward D. Griffin, Trustees. (Parish Corporation Book)

"Will lay corner stone of new Catholic Church, Wednesday, July 25."

"Arrangements have been made by Father J. C. Maher for the formal laying of the corner stone of the new Catholic Church being built in this city on Wednesday afternoon, July 25, at 2:00 o'clock. Bishop Dowling of Des Moines will be in charge. The corner stone will be laid with appropriate ceremonies. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to attend the ceremonies." Leon Journal, July 19, 1917.

"The corner stone did not arrive from Indiana for the new Catholic Church. The ceremonies have been postponed. The stone, however, has been shipped." Leon Journal, July 26, 1917.

"The corner stone laid - Ceremonies held July 30, 1917, at the new Catholic Church occurred Monday at four. Name of the new church is to be St. Brendan's. It is to be a fine structure in every way.

"Father John Gallagher, Father Charles O'Connor and Father John Flavin of Des Moines were enroute to Leon in a car to attend the corner stone laying but got off the road in some way and were delayed thereby and did not get to Leon until after the ceremonies were over. They remained until Tuesday evening as guests of Father Maher and then returned to the city. Father Maher accompanied them to Des Moines.

"The corner stone is located at the north west corner of the new church building and is fashioned of Bedford stone nicely lettered with the name of the new church and year in which the new structure is being built. After the laying of the corner stone, work by the masons went forward with great speed and the work is now being hurried as fast as is consistent with first class workmanship. It is expected that the brick work on the new church will be completed in a short time. The walls are being constructed of red rough surface brick with trimming of Bedford Stone." Leon Journal, August 2, 1917.

"Purely personal: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koebel of Creston came Monday. Mr. Koebel being employed as a brick mason on the new Catholic Church."

"Charles Koebel and George Norris, brick masons, who are working on the new Catholic Church, went to their homes at Creston Thursday and visited a few days."

"L. A. Weldon, who was employed as a brick mason on the new Catholic Church, returned to his home at Ottumwa Thursday, work having been discontinued on the church for a few days." Reporter, August 2, 1917.

"Purely Personal: Rev. J. C. Maher went to Des Moines Friday to consult the architects of the new Catholic Church in this city in regard to electrical work on the building." Reporter, September 13, 1917.

"H. C. McKee, the contractor who is building the new Catholic Church in this city, was an over Sunday visitor in Des Moines." Reporter, October 11, 1917.

"Ireland news item: A large crowd attended services at St. Mary's Church Sunday morning." Reporter, November 15, 1917.

"Rev. J. C. Maher went to Des Moines Monday on a short business trip." Reporter, November 22, 1917.

"Henry Turpin, who is doing the plastering on the new Catholic Church in this city, went to his home at Davis City Saturday and visited over Sunday." Reporter, November 29, 1917.

"The Ladies of the Catholic Church served lunch at the M. L. Dale sale taking in a nice sum of money." Morgan news item, Reporter, December 6, 1917.

"Amer Willis, who is working on the new Catholic Church in this city, went to his home at Cainsville, Mo., Saturday evening and visited over Sunday." Reporter, December 20, 1917.

"Father J. C. Maher, who conducts services at Mount Ayr, departed for that city Saturday evening to hold Sunday services." Reporter, January 3, 1918.

"Work upon the new Catholic Church in the north part of Leon is just about completed. The arrival of hardware for the doors is now being awaited and when that part of the work is completed the only portion of the work left will be the installing of the seating and other furniture. It is expected that the pews will be in place and the new church ready for use within a very short time. It is certainly a handsome modernly arranged building and will be neatly and well equipped." Leon Journal, January 10, 1918, page 1.

"The members of the Corporation — the Most Reverend Bishop Austin Dowling, Pres.; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Flavin v. g., Vice-Pres.; Rev. J. C. Maher, Pastor; Dennis Daughton and Dennis E. Griffin, Trustees; voted to borrow $6,000.00 from the American Trust and Savings Bank, Des Moines, Iowa, at 6% to complete and furnish the new church." Corp. Book, March 4, 1918.

"In accordance with Article IX of the articles of incorporation and By-Law IV of the by-laws of St. Brendan's Church, Leon, Iowa, I as Bishop of Des Moines, approve and authorize the resolution passed at the special meeting of the corporation held March 4, 1918, at Leon proposing to borrow the sum of $6,000.00 from the American Trust and Savings Bank, Des Moines, Iowa, on note of corporation at 6% to complete and furnish the new St. Brendan's Church. Signed March 11, Austin Dowling, Bishop of Des Moines." Corporation Book.

"The marriage of Stephen Barry and Helen Barrett by Father J. C. Maher took place in the new St. Brendan's Church as the first marriage in the new church May 23, 1918. James Barry and Grace Barrett, witnesses.

"Fay Macy of Leon and Miss Alice Conwell of near Grand River were united in marriage at St. Brendan's Catholic Church in this city, Tuesday morning at 7:30 o'clock. The ceremony being performed by Father Maher. They were attended by Miss Hazel Mullin and William Barrett. Mr. and Mrs. Macy are being showered with the hearty congratulations of their many friends." Leon Journal, June 20, 1918.
to speak.

To Dedicate on Sunday

New Catholic Church to be dedicated at that time — Bishop Dowling

He will preach in morning. Dinner is to be served by the ladies of the Church.

St. Brendan's, the handsome new Catholic Church in north Leon, is to be dedicated next Sunday, June 30th. The dedication ceremonies to begin at 10:30 that morning.

Father Maher, the pastor, has completed all arrangements for the dedication to which the public is invited. Bishop Dowling will preach in the morning. Solemn High Mass will be celebrated by Father John T. Noonan; Father Charles O'Connor, deacon; Rev. J. Troy, subdeacon, and Rev. John Flavin, master of ceremonies. Dinner is to be served by the ladies of the church. In the evening at 8 o'clock Father John T. Noonan will deliver a sermon which is to be followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Maher has been busy for the past few days getting everything in readiness for the dedication ceremonies. He has been ably assisted by the people of the church." Leon Journal, June 27, 1918, page 4.

Copy of Card Invitation to dedication:

St. Brendan's Church
Leon, Iowa
will be dedicated by the
Right Reverend Austin Dowling
Bishop of Des Moines
On Sunday Morning, June thirtieth
Nineteen hundred and eighteen
at Ten Thirty
You are invited to attend
Rev. James C. Maher

Saint Brendan's Dedicated June 30, 1918

New Church Dedicated

"St. Brendan's Catholic Church Dedicated Sunday. Bishop Dowling is speaker. Large number attended in spite of bad roads resulting from the previous night's rain.

"St. Brendan's, the new Catholic Church recently constructed in north Leon, was dedicated last Sunday. A large number being in attendance in spite of the bad roads resulting from heavy rain of the previous evening.

"Bishop Dowling of Des Moines delivered the principal address of the day. He is an eloquent speaker and the large audience certainly enjoyed his splendid address. Father John T. Noonan delivered the sermon in the evening which proved to be another fine address.

"The dedication ceremonies began at 10:30 Sunday morning. Solemn High Mass being celebrated by Father John T. Noonan; Father Charles O'Connor and Father John Flavin master of ceremonies; Bishop Dowling delivered the sermon at the morning ceremonies. At noon dinner was served by the ladies of the church. That evening at 8:00 o'clock Father John T. Noonan delivered the second fine sermon of the dedication day.

"Father Maher, pastor of St. Brendan's, is well pleased with the success of the dedication. Father Maher and people of the church worked hard in preparation for the day and they deserve much credit. Among those in attendance and assisting with the dedication were Bishop Dowling; Father John T. Noonan; Father John Flavin; Father Charles O'Connor of Des Moines; Father J. F. Costello of Audubon; Father Henry Malone and Wise of Creston." Leon Journal, July 4, 1918, Page 1.

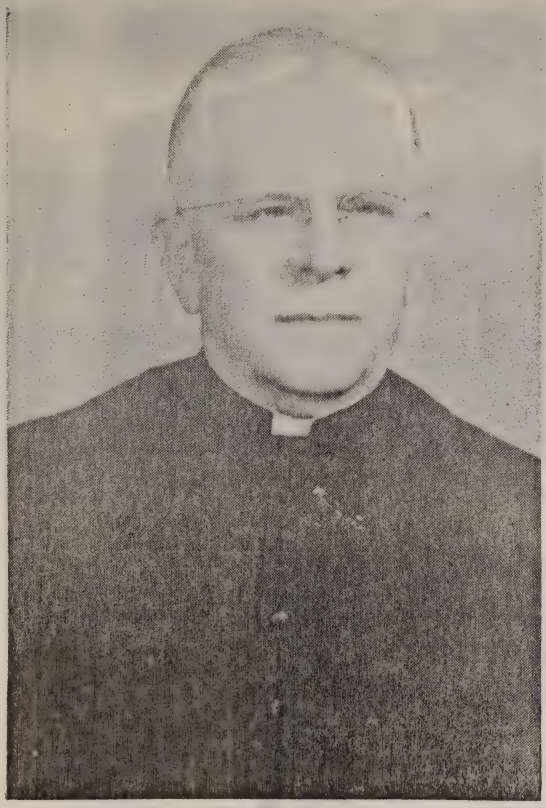
St. Brendan's Church, Leon, Iowa

Rt. Rev. Monsignor James C. Maher

Father James C. Maher, pastor of Leon and Grand River, 1916 to April, 1928. He was born at Lixnaw, County Kerry, Ireland, on March 3, 1887, and studied at Carlow, Ireland, and St. Francis, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained a priest in Des Moines July 3, 1913. After serving as assistant three years in Des Moines, Red Oak and Council Bluffs, he was pastor of Leon until 1928, when he was appointed pastor of All Saints, Des Moines, Iowa. He was made monsignor in July, 1954.

Reverend Father John F. O'Connor
as Army Chaplain

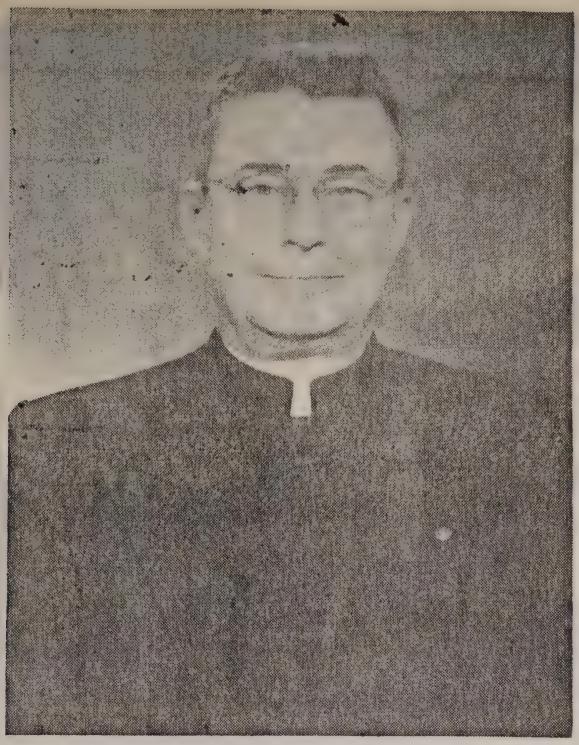
Father John F. O'Connor, pastor of Leon and Grand River, July, 1928, to August, 1937. He was born at Kenmare, County Kerry, Ireland, November 5, 1898. He studied at St. Brendan's Seminary, Killarny, and St. Peters, Wexford, and St. Kiernan at Killkenny. He was ordained June 24, 1923, at Des Moines. After serving as assistant in Des Moines for five years he was appointed pastor of Leon and Grand River, 1928, Woodbine in 1937; U. S. Army Chaplain, 1940 to 1945, Pastor at Pisgah since 1946.



Rev. E. J. Schuman

Father E. J. Schuman, pastor of Leon and Grand River, September, 1937, to March, 1947.

"Father Schuman, age 59, of St. Mary's Catholic Church Avoca, Iowa, died Saturday, April 30, 1955, following a heart attack on Friday. He was born in Chicago, Illionis, and served in World War I before attending college and seminary. He was ordained a priest in 1926. He was buried in a Chicago cemetery with his parents."



Reverend Edward J. Harkin

Father Edward J. Harkin, appointed pastor of Leon and Grand River by Bishop G. T. Bergan, in June, 1947. He was born in Des Moines, Iowa, May 3, 1912. He attended a small country school, later Visitation in Des Moines; Dowling High School; St. Ambrose, Davenport, Iowa; St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and was ordained in Des Moines, Iowa, June 11, 1938. He served as assistant at Visitation in Des Moines until October, 1942; U. S. Navy Chaplain until June, 1947, when he was appointed pastor at Leon, Iowa.

First Communion, St. Brendan's, June 21, 1953

Confirmation at St. Brendan's June 12, 1949

St. Brendan's — Christmas, 1952

Chapter VII

The Grand River Church

The first priest to record a visit to Grand River area was undoubtedly Father B. P. McMenomy, September 9, 1867, when he baptized Ann Elizabeth Conwell, daughter of Stephen Conwell and Jane Morrow, who was born June 29, 1867. The sponsors were Ed Conwell and Ann Conwell. See record at Georgetown.

Father McMenomy was at Grand River again when he and Ed Conwell made the visit to Maloy (Shay's Settlement) in September, 1869, in Ringgold County.

Father Hugh Malone of Georgetown, August 27, 1870, baptized Patrick H. O'Grady in the log cabin north of Grand River. Ed Conwell and Julia Conwell were sponsors.

Father John S. Baumann of Bauer visited Grand River April 1, 1873. He was the last priest to come from Georgetown and Bauer to Grand River. This was because of the beginning of St. Malachy's parish at Creston in 1873, by Father Augustine Burns O. S. B., which had an interesting beginning.

Father Augustine Burns O. S. B.

Father Augustine was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, and was educated for the priesthood at Paris, France, and came to the United States in 1850, being ordained a priest in Pittsburgh, Pa., for service in that diocese. In 1866, however, he received permission to enter the Benedictine Monastery at St. Vincents Abbey, Latrobe, Westmoreland County, Penna. A year later he affiliated himself with the Benedictines at Collegeville, near St. Cloud, Minn., and did missionary work in Benton and Meeker County, Minnesota. During these six years he was looking ahead for himself to establish an Irish English speaking Benedictine Monastery somewhere in the growing midwest. Bishop Hennessy of Dubuque gave him the invitation and suggested the newly established town of Creston as the place. Without delay Father Augustine went to Creston in July, 1873, and purchased the land upon which to build the monastery.

Soon Father Augustine welcomed Father Placidus McKeever O. S. B. from Atchison, Kansas, as his first companion. The project, however, suffered a severe setback while yet in its infancy when on August 11, 1874, Father Augustine was suddenly struck down with a stroke while visiting at Burlington, Iowa, and died. He is buried at Calvary Cemetery, Creston, Iowa.

Father Eugene Phelan O. S. B. of St. Vincents was then sent to Creston and became the first and only official prior when Pope Leo XIII, in June, 1879, raised the pastorate of St. Malachy's to the status of an Independent Priory. However, plans did not materialize as hoped and after a while St. Malachy's was restored to a pastorate and thus ended the first project of its kind in the United States. See Messenger, October 28, 1948.

From 1874 to 1883, Father Placidus McKeever O. S. B. and Father Eugene Phelan O. S. B. of Creston came to the homes of Ed "Neddie" Conwell or Samuel Wallace to offer the sacrifice of the Mass about once a month. He would arrive by train at Murray on Saturday and one of the men

would meet him there and bring him by wagon 12 miles south where the next day he would say Mass in the house. People came from as far as Beaconsfield, Ellston and Grand River to attend Mass. Afterwards all enjoyed a home cooked dinner and some remained for a visit until Monday morning before returning home. The priest would visit one of the sick or baptize an infant while in the neighborhood. All sacraments were administered in the house during those days.

Monday morning early the priest would be taken to Murray by wagon for the return trip by train back to Creston.

At this time Westerville was the "Big Town" before Grand River had received its impetus to grow because of the railroad. These things took place three miles north of Westerville or five miles north of Grand River. The Westerville Post Office was established in 1853.

The Humeston and Shenandoah Railroad, later called the Keokuk and Western, came to Grand River from Van Wert about 1881, and made Grand River the imporant town.

Tht Leon Journal in a Grand River news item has the following rumor: "The Catholics talk of building a Church here this Fall." See Leon Journal, July 20, 1882, Page 3.

Father Placidus McKeever O. S. B.

Father McKeever O. S. B. was born in Ireland in 1839 and came to America as a youth and entered St. Benedicts College, Atchison, Kansas, and was ordained a priest August 26, 1869. He served as assistant and pastor of Benedictine parishes at Atchison, Kansas; Creston, Iowa; Effingham, Kansas; Fanning, White Cloud, Troy, Kansas, and Perrin, Mo. He died of cancer September 22, 1896.

Father Eugene Phelan O. S. B.

Father Eugene Phelan was born in Dublin, Ireland, July 6, 1840. He was ordained a priest April 12, 1867, and died May 6, 1903. The last years of his life were spent at St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas.

From 1883 to 1885, Father Patrick Feeley of Mount Ayr had charge of Catholics around Grand River. He was followed by Father William M. Williams from 1885 to 1886. Father B. J. Sheridan had charge for three months, January to March, 1887.

In April, 1887, Father T. J. Mullen took residence at Maloy with Grand River as one of his missions which was served by later priests of Maloy until 1915.

After Father Mullen, then came Father Terence Molloy, 1891 to 1892. Next came Father Henry Malone, 1892 to 1894, who was followed by Father James W. Bulger, 1894 to 1896.

The first Catholic Church building in Grand River was begun during the time of Father Bulger, October 31, 1895, when the Catholics purchased

one (the larger one) of the old Grand River school rooms built in 1879 and moved it east three blocks where it was converted into a frame Church and used until 1929. The two lots upon which it stood were deeded to Rt. Rev. Henry Cosgrove, Bishop of Davenport, by Patrick and Sarah Griffin, April 18, 1896, for the sum of one dollar. Volume 101, Page 231, Leon Court House.

In February, 1896, Father Bulger exchanged parishes with Father John A. Cook who had been pastor at Shenandoah. It was Father Cook then who dedicated the Catholic Church at Grand River June 14, 1896.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Grand River, 1896-1929

St. Mary's, Grand River, Dedicated

The following is from The Leon Journal, Grand River News Item: "After many delays the Catholic Church is completed. The old school house has been transformed into a neat chapel. It has been thoroughly overhauled outside and in, with a door. Ten feet of the east end is raised about one foot around which runs the altar rail. The Altar is a fine piece of work. The building was dedicated last Sunday, the services being rendered by Father Cook in an impressive manner. Members of the Catholic Church were in attendance from far and near. Many were present through motives of curiosity and the crowd was the largest ever gathered in this place on such an occasion." Leon Journal, June 18, 1896.

After Father J. A. Cook was transferred to St. Mary's, Iowa, he was followed by Father Thomas Loftus, 1898-1899) and Father J. J. Condon, 1899 to 1907.

Father J. J. Condon

Father Condon was born at Peterborough, Canada. February 20, 1864. He studied at St. Ambrose College, Davenport, and St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md., being ordained a priest June 14, 1898, by Cardinal Gibbons.

He was assistant in Des Moines before becoming pastor of Maloy, 1899 to 1908. He was pastor at Churchville, later at Missouri Valley until 1929, when his health failed because of rheumatic trouble. He sought relief in southern Colorado and became Chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital, Del Norte, Colorado, in April, 1929. He died there November 29, 1946, age 82.

As a young man he had learned the carpenter trade. Father Condon, during his nearly 50 years as a priest, had been a kindly, sympathetic and generous hearted priest, a tireless and courageous servant of the Master. R. I. P. Messenger, December 6, 1946.

Father John C. White

Father White was born in Erie, Penna, August 10, 1855, son of John B. White and Bridget Lennan, and came to Des Moines with his parents as a child, attending St. Ambrose School in Des Moines where he imbibed the principles of religion and the practice of piety. He studied at Dubuque, Iowa, and at the Grand Seminary, Montreal, Canada, being ordained a priest in October, 1881, by Bishop McMullen of Davenport.

His first charge was Chariton where he spent two years. Later he was at Marengo, Williamsburg, Parnell, Dunlap, Woodbine, South Ottumwa, Maloy and Winterset.

"He was blessed with a strong constitution, a clever mind and devoted both to the cause he served. He took a keen interest in those committed to his charge. The criminal and law breaker he justly rebuked and if they did not desist from their evil ways he chastised them with a chastisement that they never forgot. Lawless citizens feared him as much as the good and kind citizens admired and praised him . . . . He was an authority upon questions pertaining to agriculture and live stock production." He died in Omaha De-

cember 5, 1920, and is buried at St. Ambrose cemetery. Des Moines. See Western World, December 9, 1920, Page 5.

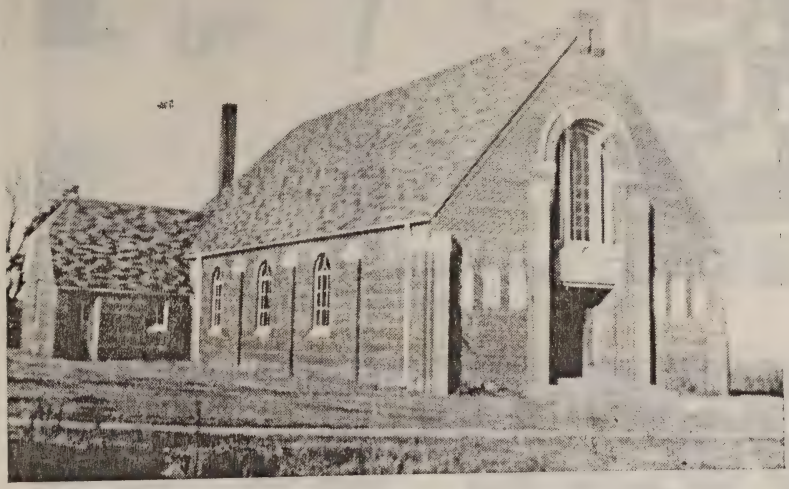
Father John C. White
1907 - 1914

The next priest to come to Maloy in 1914 and perhaps a few Sundays to Grand River was Father Charles S. Waldron. He dropped dead at St. Mary's Rectory, Des Moines, October 19, 1915, and is buried at St. Ambrose Cemetery, age 70. It is said he was an M. D. and also a convert to the Catholic Church.

Some time before May of 1915, Father John P. Burkhiser took residence at Mount Ayr, with Grand River and Leon as his mission until he was transferred in 1916.

Father J. C. Maher, 1916 to 1928.

Father John O'Connor, 1928 to 1937.



St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Grand River, Iowa

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Grand River, Iowa, was erected in 1929, by Father John O'Connor.

Father E. J. Schuman, September, 1937, to March, 1947.

Father E. J. Harkin, June, 1947 —

First Communion — 1947

First Communion — 1951

Chapter VIII

GRAND RIVER FAMILIES

Conwell Family

Patrick Conwell of Carrick, Donegal County, Ireland, and Margaret Brady had two sons: Stephen, born in 1828, and Edward, born in 1830. Margaret, the wife of Patrick, died leaving the two young sons. Patrick married Mary McBrariety and from that union four children were born; Jane Conwell McLaughlin; Simon Conwell of Seneca, Kansas; George Conwell of Grand River who was born July 16, 1848, in Carrick, County Donegal; Ann Conwell Smith of Iowa City.

As time passed, the children, Stephen and Edward, being the first, came to America. Later, after the death of Mary McBrariety, Patrick Conwell also came to live in Decatur County, north of Grand River. However, Patrick Conwell, the former Post Master of Carrick, Ireland, soon died, in December, 1870, age 75, of paralysis, only a few months after coming to America and was buried in St. Ambrose Cemetery, Des Moines, with his son, Stephen, who had died September 20, 1867.

Stephen Conwell

Stphen Conwell, born in Ireland in 1828, bought land jointly with his brother, Edward in Richland Township from the United States Government, June 10, 1854. They lived on their land and harvested a crop during the summer of 1855. Stephen and Edward were both "Irish Peddlers." While on a trip during the summer of 1864, through Mondamin, Iowa, in Harrison County, Stephen met a Mr. Morrow whose home was a stage coach stop on the way to Sioux City. On April 10, 1866, Stephen married Jane Morrow, the inn keeper's daughter. A year later Ann Elizabeth (Mrs. William Kelly) was born in Decatur County, Iowa, June 29, 1867. Her baptismal record is at Georgetown. Three months afterward Stephen took sick and died very suddenly in Decatur County and was buried in Des Moines at St. Ambrose Cemetery. His daughter, Ann Elizabeth Conwell, married William Kelly of Mondamin. One of their children is Mrs. F. H. (Vivian) Logan of Mondamin, Iowa.

Edward Conwell

Mrs. Julia Conwell

Edward Conwell

Edward Conwell, born December 23, 1830, Carrick, County Donegal, Ireland, bought land in Decatur County, June 10, 1854, and harvested a crop of 50 bushels of corn from ten acres of improved land the summer of 1855. See Iowa Census 1856, Vol. 42, Page 98.

His marriage record is as follows in his Bible possessed by Mrs. J. J. McGreevy of Grand River:

"Mr. Edward Conwell and Miss Julia Daughton were united by me in Holy Matrimony at the Woodland Church the 19th day of January in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy, in the presence of George Conwell and Mary Dillon. B. A. Cannon R. C., Priest."

Edward Conwell died March 18, 1915. Julia died January 27, 1923. Both are buried at Maloy Catholic Cemetery.

Children: All were born north of Grand River.

1. Stephen, born April 11, 1871, died October 25, 1931, married in Utah. Two children, Donna and Edward.

2. James Maurice, born August 21, 1872, living in California.

3. Margaret E., born January 14, 1874, married John Treanor, died at Creston in 1952. She was baptized by Father Placidus O. S. B. and is the first Grand River baptism in Creston register.

4. Julia Ann, born April 15, 1875, married James J. McGreevy April 10, 1899. He was born in County Down, Ireland, April 15, 1874, of John McGreevy and Mary Kinley. They are living north of Grand River and have two daughters, Marie in California, and Monica in Indiana.

5. Simon W., born October 16, 1876, died in California in December, 1955.

6. Edward P., born March 27, 1878, married Calista Shay of Maloy, have children; living at Red Lodge, Montana.

7. Catherine, born April 10, 1881, died in California in 1948, married John Ward, survived by four children.

8. George L., born in 1883, died in 1885.

9. Luke, born April 19, 1885, married Alma Barrett. He has three children: Evelyn Mahrenholz, Robert, Nellie.

10. Frank D., born January 11, 1887, married Theresa Lyons. They had four children: Catherine, Julia, Teresa and Anna.

11. Twins, died in infancy.

Edward Conwell, one of many Irish Peddlers during the 1850's and 1860's took trips walking through Kentucky and Tennessee with a pack mule carrying linen, woolen and lace material or other things that were needed by people who lived in far away places.

He made several trips through southern Iowa west from Keokuk before he was married. That is how he met Julia Daughton of Ireland in Woodland Township. The peddler was generally welcomed at the log cabin of his custo-

mer. He knew most of the Irish from southern Iowa to Tennessee and even up into Ohio and Indiana.

One of his common expressions was: "In troth never buy, til ya hev the mooney. If ya hev the mooney then buy and in troth it's a good deal."

Edward, or Neddie as he was known, was County Commissioner or member of board of supervisors of Decatur County, January, 1880-1883.

George Conwell

He was born in County Donegal, Ireland, July 16, 1848, of Patrick Conwell and Mary McBrariety. He was a half brother to Stephen and Edward and came to America before October 5, 1869, and married Mary Moran, born at Muscatine, Iowa, October 25, 1861, married at Creston, Iowa, January 27, 1878. Both are buried at Afton. They lived their married life north of Grand River. He died in 1931, she died in 1923.

Children:

1. Patrick, born November 16, 1878, married Martha Edwards. They had six children.

2. Jenny, Jane E., born September 23, 1880, married Stephen B. O'Grady. Both buried in O'Grady Cemetery. They had three children: Mary Margaret, Eugene and Donald.

3. Thomas, born in 1882, died in 1887.

4. Mary Ann, born July 23, 1883, living at Osceola.

5. Agnes, born June 28, 1887, married A. C. Teatsworth of Lenox. They have three children.

6. Alice, born March 2, 1896, married Albert Fay Macy. They have two sons at Osceola.

John Maguire

Among the first Catholic families of Decatur County must be named the John Maguire family who came to Richland Township in 1855. See Iowa Census 1856, Vol. 42.

Edward McMoingle, also an early settler who died in the early 1860's, was related to the Maguire family. This family moved west to Utah about 1872-1875. A letter from a grandson is quoted:

Salt Lake City
September 14, 1955

"Rev. E. J. Harkin
St. Brendan's Church
Leon, Iowa

Dear Father Harkin:

In answer to your letter of September 8th, I will say that my father was Don Maguire. He was born in 1852, in Vermont, the only one of his family that was not born in Ireland. He moved from Grand River with his family to Ogden, Utah. He had four brothers, Michael, John, Charles and Daniel, and a sister, Bridget. His father's name was John. He attended old Santa Barbara Mission school (I mean Dad).

He wrote a book of poems and I have misplaced my copy.

He visited Ireland after he had made a small stake. He was struck down by a Ford in front of the Catholic Church January 8, 1933, in his 81st year. He was a grand character — May God rest his soul.

I hope this information will be of some assistance to you. With all good wishes for you in your work. I know Dad would enjoy reading it.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Maguire
1860 South 16th E. St.
Salt Lake City, Utah."

Patrick O'Grady

Patrick O'Grady

Patrick O'Grady, born in Ireland, February 14, 1820, died at Grand River February 24, 1899, is buried in O'Grady Cemetery. He married Margaret McNamara, born inCounty Clare, Ireland, in 1836, died August 15, 1895. They lived in Chicago where several older children were born. He was a policeman there and it is related, that while making an arrest, a man bit off one of Mr. O'Gradv's fingers. He had a brother, Edward, who married a sister of Margaret who remained in Chicago. Another brother was Michael, who married Catherine Grogan of Woodland Township.

Patrick O'Grady bought land in Section 17, Richland Township, Decatur County, from Catherine Cassidy, February 3, 1860, and came to Decatur County about 1869.

Children:

1. John, born in 1857, and went to Montana and was accidently killed at Anaconda by a dynamite explosion July 20, 1896, a few days after O'Grady Cemetery was established.

2. Michael, born in Illinois December 25, 1858, died August 3, 1912. Buried in O'Grady Cemetery.

3. Edward, born in Illinois in 1862, married Celena La Porte, who died in 1911, leaving three children: Mary, Joseph and Edward. He later married Catherine Lyons, the mother of Teresa Conwell. Edward died December 31, 1947.

4. William, born in Illinois in 1867, died May 15, 1950.

5. Patrick Henry, born in Decatur County in 1870, never married, died in 1950, buried at O'Grady Cemetery.

6. Mary Ann, born in Decatur County in 1875, married Harry Gilreath. She passed away September 20, 1931. Harold Gilreath, a son, is only child residing in Decatur County.

7. Stephen B., born in Decatur County in 1876, married Jenny E. Conwell, died October 2, 1950. Both are buried in O'Grady Cemetery. Children: Mary Margaret, Eugene and Donald.

Treanor Families

James Treanor, Senior, was born in parish of Carlingford, County Louth, Ireland, in 1788, died May 3, 1872, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township, married Bridget Anne Killan, born in 1788, in Ireland, died five miles south of Grand River, July 12, 1866, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. They came to Decatur County, Iowa, in March, 1866.

Their children were: Hugh, of Canada; James, Jr., of Decatur County; Anne Kearney, of Canada; Mary Cannon, of Canada; Bridget Donnelly, of Keokuk, Iowa.

James Treanor, Junior

James Treanor was born August 7, 1834, County Louth, Ireland, died in 1906, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. He came to the United States in 1852 with his parents and settled in Belmont County, Ohio, where he worked as a bookkeeper. He married Elizabeth Jane Holland, born March 8, 1837, died August 12, 1884, and is buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

James Treanor, Jr., worked for the Burlington Railroad, and because of this shortly after he came to Decatur County in 1866, the Burlington Railroad wrote and asked him to move to near Ottumwa to be in charge of the west section, which he did.

Later he and his family moved to Osceola and here his father, James, Senior, died May 3, 1872. "The body of a Mr. Treanor passed through town last Saturday for enternment in the Catholic Cemetery in the southeastern part of the county." Leon Journal, May 9, 1872.

The Iowa Census of 1885 says they were living in Grand River Township, Section 28.

Children:

1. Hugh Burt, born in 1857 in Ohio, died May 28, 1933, buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township, married Mary Grogan. They had four daughters.

2. James W., born in 1857, died in 1907, buried Calvary Cemetery, Creston. Married Agnes Murphy. They had two children. She died. He then married Mary Boyd.

3. Simon P., born in 1860 in Ohio, died in 1941, buried in Calvary Cemetery, Creston. Married Margaret Murphy. They had five children.

4. Mary Jane, born in 1862, living in Missouri and married Burrell Stephens. They have two sons.

5. John Francis, born in 1863, died in 1953, married Elizabeth Quinn. She died May 21, 1938. He married Margaret Conwell. All are buried at Calvary Cemetery, Creston.

6. Louisa Ann, born in 1865 in Ohio, married George Van Sweringen. She died in 1955. Both are buried in Calvary Cemetery, Creston. One daughter, Florence.

7. Bridget, born in 1867, died as an infant.

8. Mathew, born in 1869, died as an infant.

John Hagerty

John Hagerty, born in Ireland in 1834, married Ann Gallagher, born in Ireland in 1844. Bought land in Decatur County, Richland Township, Section 4, in 1864.

Their family consisted of Annie, born in Illinois in 1867; Michael, born in Decatur County in 1869; John, born in Decatur County in 1872; Mary Ellen, born in Decatur County in 1874; Charles, born in Decatur County in 1876; Simon, born in Decatur County in 1879; Margaret and Nora, born in Ringgold County, 1881. Their baptismal records are at Creston.

This family moved to Alliance, Nebraska, about 1890.

Fredrick W. Backus

Fredrick Backus, his wife, Susanna, and five children were living in Richland Township, north of Grand River, in 1887.

Fredrick was born in Germany in 1841. Susanna was born in Illinois in 1858.

Peter P., born in Decatur County in 1875; Fredrick, born in Decatur County in 1877; Mary A., born in Decatur County in 1879; Joseph K., born in Decatur County in 1882; Henry Ed., born in Decatur County in 1886.

William (Bill) Dunn

It is reported that they came from Missouri and settled near Hopeville. Some of their children were Homer, Kate, Mary and several others. After the death of Mr. Dunn, the mother and children moved to Omaha, Nebraska

Thomas Curran

It is told that the Curran family was related to the Dunn family. They moved to Omaha, Nebraska, with their children. Baptismal records are at Maloy.

Thomas Kelly

Living west of Grand River in 1895 was the Kelly family. Thomas was born in Ireland in 1847, Mary was born in Ohio in 1857.

Children: John, born in Decatur County in 1883; Mary, born in Ringgold County in 1888; Charles, born in Ringgold County in 1891; Patrick, born in Ringgold County in 1892; Florence, born in Ringgold County in 1895.

Michael O'Grady

Michael O'Grady and Catherine Grogan O'Grady

Michael O'Grady was born in Ireland in 1837, died in October, 1913, buried at Afton. Married Catherine Grogan in June, 1880, of Woodland Township. They had six children in Ringgold County.

Children:

1. William E., born June 24, 1881, married Bertha Garland. They had five children who reside in Mitchell, South Dakota.

2. John S., born in 1883, near Leon, married Susie Taggart and had six children. He died in December, 1950, and was buried at Sturgis, South Dakota.

3. James P. born in 1885, married Jessie Taylor, died in September, 1923, leaving one son, Raymond L.

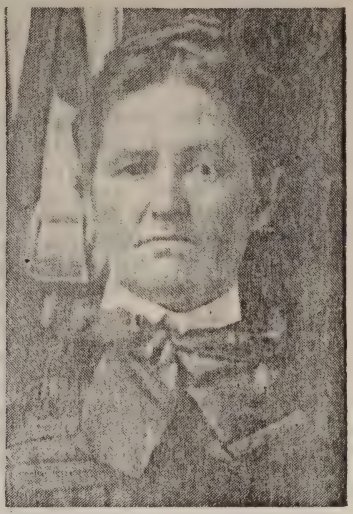
4. Margaret E., born in 1887, married Bert Walters, live near Ellston. They have two children: Francis and Sister Joseph Mary of the Sisters of Humility of Ottumwa, Iowa.

5. Edward Samuel, died as an infant.

6. Robert M., born October 23, 1892, near Ellston, married Lucie Ball. Five children. Lucie died September 9, 1955, at Ellston.

James P. Daughton

James P. Daughton



Mrs. James P. Daughton

James Daughton, born in Ireland in 1850, died in 1938, married Hannah Griffin, born in New Jersey in 1850, died in 1933. Lived in Woodland Township, moved to near Grand River about 1878. Both are buried in Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township.

Children: William; Amy Buell; James P.; Margaret Tapscott; Walter; Emmett; Frederick; Ralph; Leo.

Patrick McGraw

Patrick McGraw and wife, Johanna, both born in County Clare, Ireland, came to the United States before 1855 and worked on the railroad in Pennsylvania until 1865, when he moved to Sangamon County, Illinois, where he farmed until he moved to Ringgold County, Iowa, north of Beaconsfield. Both are buried at Afton. He died February 25, 1888, age 80 years. She died September 17, 1901, age 82 years.

Children: John; Michael; Patrick; Bridget, who became Sister Mary Amelia, Sisters of Charity of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; James; Thomas; Martin.

The Patrick Ward Family

Mrs. (Mary Askrin) Patrick Ward

Patrick Ward, born in Killybegs in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1843, married Mary Askrin, born in 1846. Moved to Ringgold County near Beaconsfield from Belvidere, Illinois, about 1884. Mary died in 1906. Both are buried at Maloy.

Children: Daniel; Patrick; Mary; Hannah; Catherine; John; Anna; Joseph; Edward; Charles. Anna married Edward Dennis Griffin of Leon. Catherine married Patrick Carr. The grandchildren of Anna Griffin are Edward J. Griffin and James W. Griffin and the La-Follette children: Edward L., Richard; Joyce; Joseph; and Gene C.

The Ward Family
Catherine Carr, Joseph, John, Ann Griffin, Charles Patrick

Michael McGraw

Michael McGraw, born in Ireland in 1853, married Jane Grogan at Chariton, Iowa, by Father Sheridan, February 23, 1887. Children: Edwin; Jessie; Clifford; Nellie.

Thomas Moran

Thomas Moran and wife, Anna, were both born in County Kerry, Ireland. They lived at Muscatine, Iowa, between 1857 and 1869. They moved to Ringgold County about 1884. He died August 12, 1887, age 65. She died February 4, 1902, age 74. Both are buried at Afton. Children: John; Mary married George Conwell; Dennis; Anna; Jerry.

James Cashen

James Cashen, born in 1852, married Sarah Frances Poisett. They came from Avon, Illinois, to Maloy, Iowa, on March 1, 1890, to Osceola, Iowa, in 1904, and later moved to near Grand River, west of Beaconsfield, Iowa. Children: Frederick Leo; James A.; Mary J.; Louis E.

William M. Cronin

William Cronin was born near Iowa City in 1867, married Catherine Reilly, born in 1870, near Iowa City. Moved to Kellerton in 1913. Children: Arthur William; Genevieve Agnes; Clarence; William; Ralph; Naomi; Paul. William died in 1951. Mrs. Cronin resides at Kellerton, Iowa.

James Connelly

James Connelly, born in Ireland in April, 1848, married Anna McCarthy, born in County Waterford-Lismore in 1855. They lived in Des Moines until 1896 when they moved to Ellston in Ringgold County. Both are buried at Afton.

Children: James; John; Mary; William and Martin. Mary married John Bresnahan and are the parents of Reverend William Bresnahan O. S. B. Conception Abbey. Mary made her First Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church, Grand River, in 1900. William Connelly of Afton, the father of Reverend Paul Connelly, made his First Holy Communion also at the old St. Mary's Church, Grand River, in 1900. The pastor at that time was Father J. J. Condon of Maloy.

Cousins

Fathers Harkin, Connelly, Bresnahan and their parents, June 1, 1950, at Afton after the first Mass of Rev. Paul Connelly.

James McGraw

James McGraw, son of Patrick and Johanna (Genan) McGraw, was born in Ireland in 1854. He came with his parents when a small boy to this country, settling in Pittsburgh, Pa., for a short time. Later the family migrated west and settled on a farm near Beaconsfield in Ringgold County, Iowa.

September 10, 1889, he was married to Mattie Grogan before the Reverend Father T. J. Mullen. They became the parents of three children: Marie (Mrs. L. E. O'Hair), Osceola; Raymond, of Grand River, and Gladys (Mrs. Dennis Grogan) ,now deceased.

Mr. McGraw died June 16, 1928, and is buried in the Catholic Cemetery, Woodland Township. He has four granddaughters: Kathleen Burchett, Ramadean Shields, Marilyn and Frances McGraw.

Chapter IX

CORYDON, WAYNE COUNTY, IOWA

Charles Sweeney of Maxwell, Iowa, January 25, 1953, sent me a letter through Doctor W. C. Scholty, Vet., telling of some of the Catholic families near Corydon. Charles came to Wayne County in November, 1876, with his mother and two sisters, by train to Harvard, a country cross road south of Corydon. It was the first time a train stopped at Harvard.

His father and brother drove through from Des Moines County in a wagon and four horses. It took them a week to make the trip from Burlington. The weather was bad and there were no bridges over rivers in many places.

As time passed there were some ten Catholic families who settled around south of Corydon such as the Sweeney family, the Henry Scholty family, John and James Fennell, the Enrights, the Browns, the Murphys, the Boyles, the McCanns and others.

The priest, Father O'Brien at first, was located at Moulton, Iowa. He came once a month to one of the Catholic homes to offer Mass. After Father O'Brien came Father King and Father Daily who came from Centerville. Another priest was Father Loftus. They seemed to come to the Sweeney home more often. The priest would come Saturday night and stay until Monday as there was no train on Sunday.

"People would come from a long way in wagons even as far as Lewisburg, three miles east of the Decatur County line on Highway 2. They came fasting and many times there would be as many as forty people for my mother to get dinner for."

A church was built in Corydon about 1882, however, it was really never finished. A non-Catholic man by the name of J. A. Harper donated to Bishop John McMullen of Davenport a lot in the northeast corner of town on which to build a church. After it was put up a wind storm did it serious damage. It set several years unused and the lot was sold back to Mr. J. A. Harper.

Many of the young people moved away from Wayne County after marriage and the Catholic population never grew.

Doctor William C. Scholty, son of Henry B. Scholty and Bessie E. Sweeney, was born July 30, 1880, in Wayne County.

Iowa State College Football Team — 1898

Doctor Will was graduated from Iowa State College as a Veterinarian in 1902 and resides at Leon, a member of St. Brendan's parish. He was a member of the 1898 football team of Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, as shown, back row, left, the first one.

Interior of Saint Mary's Church, Andover, Missouri, built 1872-1873. Picture was taken in 1912 a few days after being redecorated by Fathers and Brothers of Conception Abbey.

I wish to thank all who aided in the work of this publication, especially the families, the priests and persons who contributed records and information, the Department of History of the State of Iowa, the printers at The Leon Journal-Reporter, Don Hixon Photo-Engraver, and Mrs. Kenneth Ebner, who typed the final manuscript.

Rev. E. J. Harkin

A. M. D. G.

INDEX

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Errors —
Should read as follows:
Page 5, line 6: However, there are at present . . . .
Page 31, line 21: Pickaway County, Ohio.
Page 40, lines 7 and 36: Borromeo . . .
Page 46, line 28: Ceremonies . . .
Page 51, line 25: at the Country Church . . .
Page 69, line 9: Bishop Dowling to speak.
Page 87, line 43: interment . . .

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Addition to Page 46, from the
"Daily State Register
Des Moines, Iowa
Sunday, October 19, 1862

Page 3.

The following correspondence is sufficiently explicit without any explanatory introduction:

October 18, 1862

Rev. T. J. Clifford

Des Moines, Iowa.

Rev. and Dear Sir — The Catholic population of this city, not knowing how to manifest their appreciation and gratitude to you for your meritorious and arduous spiritual labors, other than by unanimously and spontaneously presenting you with a little donation through us, as being the only token of their kind regard they can exhibit. Therefore we present you with the sum of $160.00 intended by them for the purchase of a library, or helping to do so, or to be appropriated to what you see most necessary for your use. Hoping you will accept of our little token of gratitude for your spiritual and laborious officiation amongst us; and also hoping that God may bless you spiritually and temporally, and us also,

We remain very respectfully yours,
John McNamara
Francis Meehen
John Merien
John Dooly ....."

Following this letter of testimony of the priestly character of Father Clifford, gentleman and scholar, there is also printed in this same edition of October 19, 1862, his letter of acceptance and expression of gratitude to the Catholic people of the city of Des Moines for their favors and generosity presenting him with the handsome gift of $160.00 upon his leaving the city of Des Moines. He also writes in this lengthy letter of their kindness and worthiness and thanks them for presents amounting to $327.00 which they had previously given to him several months before.

Addition to Page 86:

Quoted here is a poem, "On Grand River Long Ago," written by Don Maguire, a brother-in-law of Edward McMoingle, who was mortally wounded in the early 1860's north of Grand River by a belligerent quarrelsome man who was possessed by madness because some cows they were driving by strayed onto his land:

"Through long fields of wavy corn,
Carlton ploughed from early morn;

And often up the long lane,
His son, Sam, rode through wind and rain.

There, to the south-east just one mile,
Dwelt a scoundrel fierce and vile.

His name was Rude, grown old and gray,
Who plotted murder all the day,
On Grand River, long ago.

One frosty, dull November morn
As that day's sun was being born,

A shot rang out along the air
The cry of murder issued there.

And along the earth, in frost and gray,
My sister's husband murdered lay,

While outward ran the warm life tide
From buckshot wounds in his left side,
On Grand River, long ago.

The days passed on: the murderer found,
With heavy cords his hands were bound.

And while the midnight hours went past
To death the culprit hurried fast.

Within a deep wood's lonely gloom,
A fire blazed, and to his doom

The man was sent. Three musket balls
cut short his cares or pitying calls
On Grand River, long ago. ....."